Belmonte is new Speaker as Lakas retakes House

STORY ON PAGE A2

Nene advises Gloria: Send Erap into exile

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO, DONNA CUETO AND NORMAN BORDADORA

SENDING ousted President Joseph Estrada into exile can help stabilize the Macapagal administration, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said.

Pimentel said Estrada's presence in the coun-

NENE/ A16

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Word war of generals

Marine general says AFP chief of staff beat them to the draw

Reyes: 'We did not do it for credit'

BY CARLITO PABLO

"WE have been quiet about this because we don't want to look like we did it for credit. I don't know why Espinosa is saying these things," said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes when asked to comment on the allegations of Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa. *(See story at right.)*

"I don't know what they offered him," Reyes added.

Reyes last night designated Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, deputy chief of staff for operations, to relay the AFP's official version of what happened before and on Jan. 19.

Dagudag said that the Armed

REYES/ A14

BIRTHDAY GIFT

ICON of People Power I and II, former President Cory Aquino turns 68 years old today. On the eve of her birthday, President Macapagal surprises her benefactor when she appears during the taping of a special birthday edition of a talk show hosted by Kris Aquino. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

BY CARLITO PABLO AND FE ZAMORA

CREDIT-GRABBING has begun in the Armed Forces.

A Marine general, who was reportedly the first military officer asked by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to provide him security after his "jueteng" exposé, accused Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes of withdrawing support for the Estrada administration only at the last minute.

And only because Reyes had already lost the support of his men, according to Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa.

In a meeting yesterday with selected newsmen attended by Singson and former PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso in the Makati house of former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Espinosa said he asked anti-Estrada groups to produce one million warm bodies in Edsa "and I will come out."

Espinosa claimed troops from the north and south were all set to join him on Edsa on Saturday, Jan. 20, when they were supposed to declare that they had withdrawn support from their commander in chief.

But on Friday, Reyes, together with Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and the AFP's top commanders, beat him to the draw by showing up at Edsa.

Espinosa's point was that had the defense and military top brass not withdrawn their support from Estrada on Friday, certain units in both the AFP and the Philippine National Police

WORD/ A14

6 Lacson men yield top PNP positions

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

NOT only Panfilo Lacson but also his six top men are out of the Philippine National Police.

Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, acting PNP chief, yesterday said all six "voluntarily" sought their relief to give him a "free hand" in reorganizing the police force.

They are Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia Jr., deputy chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF); Deputy Director General Jewel Canson, chief of the National Drug Enforcement and Prevention Center; Director Reynaldo Acop, chief of personnel and records management; his brother, Director Romeo Acop, chief of comptrollership; Director Jaime de la Cruz, chief of logistics; and Director Victor Batac, chief of police relations.

Mendoza said the selection of their replacements was underway.

But he was all praise for them.

6 LACSON/ A16

Muslim solon is DPWH chief

Other appointees include Abadia, Wycoco, Abalos...

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday named former Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong as secretary of public works, the first Muslim in the country to be given a Cabinet portfolio.

In announcing Datumanong's appointment, newly named Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said the President wanted to "show the people that Mindanao is very important" to the Macapagal administration.

The other appointees announced were: former shipping executive Jesus N. Alcordo, as energy secretary; former Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez, transportation secretary; retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia, national security adviser; and Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Reynaldo Wycoco, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Also named were Vitaliano Nanagas II, formerly with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and Philippine Stock Exchange, president of the Social Security System; Winston Garcia, a former board member of the Cebu provincial government, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System; and rural banker Victor Dumon, GSIS chair.

Titus Villanueva, former deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Customs, was elevated to the post of commissioner, and former Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos was named head of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

As Ms Macapagal continued to choose the members of her official family, Senate

MUSLIM/ A15

Gloria asks George 'Dubya' to visit RP

BY DONNA S. CUETO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday invited US President George W. (dubbed "Dubya" by US media) Bush to visit the Philippines later this year as they exchanged congratulations in a 10-minute telephone conversation.

Bush called up Ms Macapagal a little past 8 a.m. (Manila time), wishing her "all the best" and promising to "assist her in any way." It was a few minutes past 8 p.m. in Washington.

The call by Bush capped the outpouring of congratulations for Ms Macapagal from all over the world. It came a day after the traditional *vin d'honneur* in Malacañang where the diplomatic corps expressed their support for the new President.

"Well, I think we're the two freshest faces in the presidential ranks in the world," Bush told Ms Macapagal.

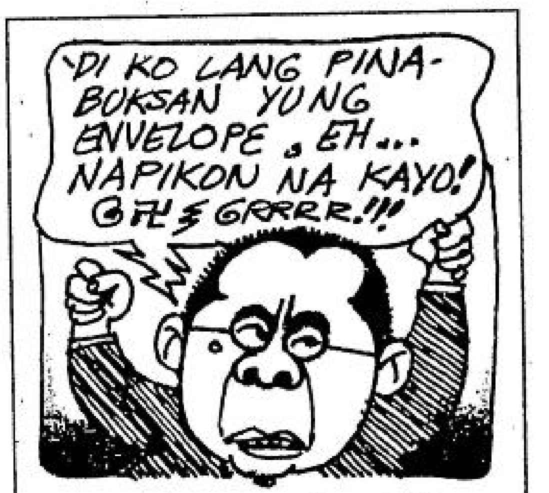
Stressing the importance of RP-US relations to her new administration, Ms Macapagal told Bush she hoped to meet him personally in November at the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in China.

"You know, Mr. President, this year is the 50th anniversary of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty, so I hope that . . . on your way to Shanghai or on your way back, you could visit Manila," Ms Macapagal said.

"You know, that's a very good idea," Bush replied, according to a transcript of the conversation released by Malacañang.

The US leader said he would pass on the information to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and State Secretary Colin

GLORIA/ A16


'DI KO LANG PINA-BUKSAN YUNG ENVELOPE, EH... NAPIKON NA KAYO! @#$ GRRRR.!!!

Relentless bashing of 'Notorious 11' leaves Kit fuming

BY JULIET JAVELLANA AND AGNES E. DONATO

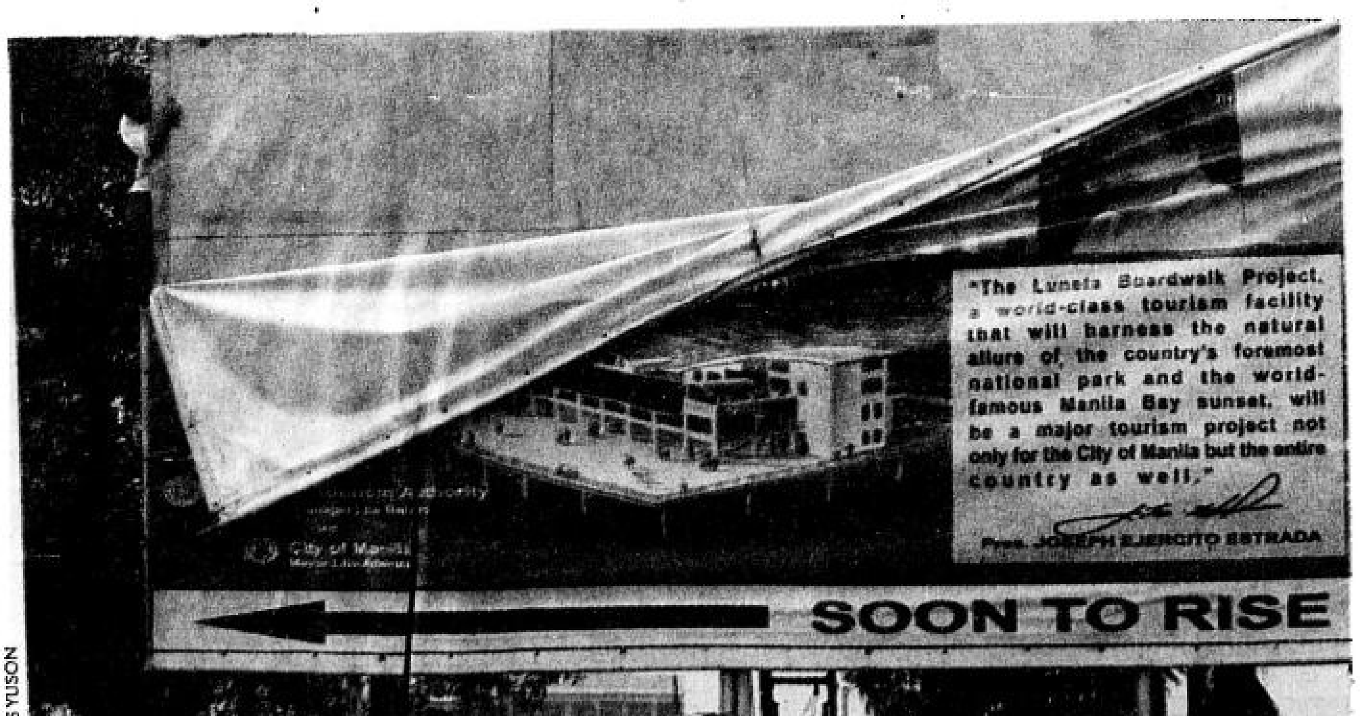
SENATE Majority Leader Francisco Tatad refused to take sitting down what he called the "arrogance and vindictiveness" of the supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo who continue to humiliate him and the other senator-judges who voted not to open a second set of bank documents during the impeachment trial.

He warned Ms Macapagal, who he

RELENTLESS/ A16

'WEATHER, WEATHER'

Falling even before its rising is the 'much-heralded P400-million project of the Estrada administration being taken down from a billboard at the Luneta. A brainchild of Lito Banayo, former Philippine Tourism Authority general manager, it was to be constructed at the back of the Quirino Grandstand as a landmark tourism project to rival the famous waterfront sites around the world like the Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. It was to be completed in 2002.


"The Luneta Boardwalk Project, a world-class tourism facility that will harness the natural allure of the country's foremost national park and the world-famous Manila Bay sunset, will be a major tourism project not only for the City of Manila but the entire country as well."
Pres. JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA
City of Manila
SOON TO RISE

JESS YUSON

Estrada lawyers question order freezing assets

LAWYERS of ousted President Joseph Estrada questioned the order of the Bureau of the Internal Revenue freezing his assets in Citibank NA branch in Virra Mall, San Juan.

"It would be better if they study that a little bit because you can't just seize someone's property without due process," said Raymond Fortun, one of Estrada's defense lawyers in the stalled Senate impeachment trial.

The BIR issued on Tuesday a freeze order on Estrada's accounts with Citibank following reports that Estrada and members of his family were planning to withdraw $3 million and P100 million from the American bank.

The Department of Justice on Tuesday also barred Estrada, his family members, former aides and business cronies from leaving the country.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said it was well within the powers of the BIR to freeze the bank deposits of Estrada and his family using alleged tax liabilities of the former President as the legal basis.

ESTRADA/ A16

SIYEMPRE ANTI-ERAP ANG NANALO!

Belmonte is new Speaker

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

BELMONTE

LAKAS-NUCD regained control of the House of Representatives last night with the election of Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte as the new speaker.

Belmonte defeated Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, who was fielded by pro-Estrada congressmen and supporters of erstwhile speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, who opted not to contest the speakership after failing to convince the congressmen to maintain the status quo. He won by a vote of 112-79.

Although Camarines Sur Rep. Roy Padilla demanded a recount late last night, observers said there's no stopping Belmonte from presiding over the last six session days of the House.

Belmonte headed the 11-man prosecution panel that presented evidence against former President Joseph Estrada in his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Fellow members chose him to be their leader because of his management skills as he previously exhibited when he was at the helm of Philippine Airlines and the Government Service Insurance System during the Aquino administration. Belmonte's family owns the controlling shares at the Philippine Star.

Majority of the congressmen insisted on an election and ignored a long-winded appeal by Fuentebella for the House to maintain the status quo.

Fuentebella insisted several times in a speech lasting for more than half an hour that he fully supports the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Fuentebella also requested colleagues to consider the adverse affects on legislation should they decide to prioritize a reorganization of the House before other more urgent bills such as the General Appropriations Act of 2001.

Fuentebella said he joined Macapagal's oath-taking rites at the Edsa Shrine believing that doing so would reflect the chamber's magnanimity with the new administration.

He also doused speculations that he and his supporters were trying to stall the reorganization planned by Lakas solons.

Fuentebella could not help but take a dig at Belmonte's group for insisting that the House undergo a reorganization despite the pending urgent bills it is supposed to consider.

"We only have six days to go. Let us forget and minimize politics. Some of us here are (fueled by) personal ambition and are obsessed with trying to secure (my) position," Fuentebella complained.

"Let us save the country by not going through parochial concerns. The national interest must be foremost in our minds. That should be our top priority," Fuentebella added.

His appeal however fell on deaf ears since congressmen eventually pushed for a vote of a new speaker.

Paving the way for Belmonte's election was the endorsement of former Speaker Manny Villar, who had earlier gained the support of a clear majority of House members that would have ensured his return to top House post.

In a statement, Villar said he had the signatures of "at least 130 House members" representing a clear majority in a resolution to reinstall him as speaker. But Villar said he "politely" declined.

The Las Piñas congressman, who played a key role in elevating the impeachment case against former Estrada to the Senate, strongly denied insinuations that he was out to regain the speakership to exact revenge as well as to control the national budget.

"I am saddened by such false reports, which are all blatant lies being peddled by parties with vested interest," he said. Villar, however, stressed that there is a clear need to institute change in the House leadership to complement the new administration of President Macapagal.

"The gains we made at Edsa may be put to waste if we do not change the present House leadership as it is clear that the present one has views and principles which differ from the new administration since we all know who they supported," he said.

Fuentebella had wrested the speakership of the House after Villar rushed the transmittal of the articles of impeachment to the Senate.

Villar said the House needs a new set of leaders whose views are consistent with the new administration, and can provide needed legislative support to the executive as well as represent the "new emerging majority."

"I believe in the capability of Congressman Belmonte to organize the House in the next few weeks and set it in the right direction toward providing the new administration the support it needs," he said.

Belmonte, he said, did an excellent job as manager of the 11-man House prosecution panel and is an experienced legislator.

Troops relax coup alert

By Carlito Pablo

ELITE troops securing Philippine military headquarters relaxed their alert status on Wednesday as fears of a coup attempt to return deposed President Joseph Estrada to power faded.

Col. Angel Atutubo, commander of military forces in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, said he had lowered the alert status from red to blue and allowed about half of the 5,500 soldiers who had been on standby to go home.

"The situation has improved and we now have no reason to be alarmed," Atutubo said.

However, other troops remained in place and armored vehicles stood at the ready, according to the Agence France Presse.

The 5,500 soldiers had been on alert since Estrada was toppled from power by a bloodless military-backed popular uprising that installed Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in his place over the weekend.

Since then, there have been rumors of a coup attempt against Macapagal, supposedly to bring Estrada back to power.

Macapagal's chief aide, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, said such speculation "had no substance."

Atutubo said that at blue alert, half of the troops "can now rest, do their laundry and see their families."

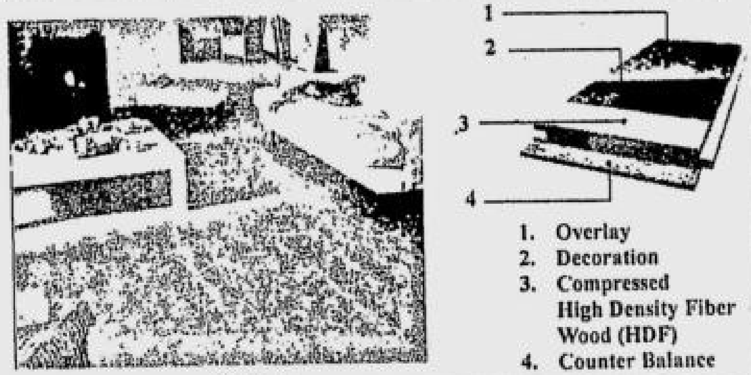
"But the other half stays, including the light armored vehicles and other equipment," he added.

Early yesterday, the base commander conferred with Maj. Gen. Virgilio Totanes and Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, deputy chiefs of staff for intelligence (J-2) and operations (J-3), respectively, to assess the situation.

He discounted the chance of a power grab by sectors within the military and the police deemed to be still loyal to Estrada.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva questioned the credibility of persons pushing for a loyalty check among military officers and personnel.

Villanueva said that from the time the AFP announced its withdrawal of support from Estrada and affirmed its backing for Macapagal, the military was united.*Arnel Avila, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, with an AFP report*



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2) Feb. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 2001 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, P6,000 ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD (ADVANCED CAKE DECORATING) New method in making 2 kinds of gumpaste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilling, swags & ribbons, edible ribbon insertion, finest string works, Lace pieces, and the chocolate fondant.
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Cerilles denies 'midnight' appointments

By Cynthia D. Balana

OUTGOING Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles yesterday denied issuing midnight appointments and Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECC) on the eve of the collapse of the Estrada administration last Saturday.

"How I wish somebody has been appointed to replace me. How I wish I could turn this office over to somebody else today," Cerilles said, in reaction to allegations he had signed midnight appointments in a letter being circulated by DENR employee union members.

"What do they know about *delicadeza* (propriety)? Why should they talk about *delicadeza* when up to the last minute I stood by my President?" Cerilles said, in reference to his alleged lack of *delicadeza* with regard to the appointments and ECCs.

Environment Assistant Secretary for Management Adriano Nava Jr. described as "lies and deceitful" allegations that Cerilles signed midnight appointments and issued ECCs just before the Estrada government fell in the face of a mounting peaceful revolt by the citizenry.

"It was simply business as usual at the DENR. Otherwise, we would have broken the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, or Republic Act No. 6713," Nava said.

He said the failure to process documents and complete action on papers within a reasonable amount of time, and the failure to act promptly on letters and requests within 15 days from their receipt, among other things, are punishable under the law.

"Instead of doing some last-minute smearing against Secretary Cerilles and other officials, they (critics) should heed the call of President Macapagal to unite... (and) heal the nation," Nava said.

Nava said that as a career official, he has to defend the bureaucracy by stating categorically that there were no midnight appointments.

Nava is a career executive service officer II.

All appointments, he said, were made following the normal legal administrative course after standard deliberations and in the presence of representatives of the DENR employees union and the Civil Service Commission.

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TOP LAW ENFORCERS

Acting Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza and newly appointed National Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco share some light moments during yesterday's command conference at Camp Crame. The two now head the country's top law enforcement and investigating agencies following the ascension to Malacañang of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gordon takes on new role as tourism czar

By Amy Bainbridge

NEWLY appointed Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said yesterday he was excited to "spread the culture of tourism" in his "senior Cabinet" role.

Gordon, who was ousted as chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority by former President Joseph Estrada, also said it was time for him to let the people of Subic "create their own destiny," referring to expectations that he would be named to his old post.

Gordon will take his oath on Friday as part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet.

In a speech at Malacañang yesterday, Gordon said the events at Edsa over the past week showed the world the character of Filipinos and this character could get the Philippines back into the international tourism "game."

"We had a very big boost at Edsa. It's time to have a culture of victorious Filipinos," he said.

"And tourism, and the new President, and everybody in this government and beyond it has to take responsibility to make sure that we start getting back into the game," he said.

Gordon said the elevation of the tourism secretary position to senior cabinet status showed that President Macapagal has made tourism a priority for the country that would no longer be "taken for granted."

He said the government would be very "aggressive" in its approach to promoting tourism. "It's going to be a pro-active department," he said.

Gordon noted that tourism was the number one industry of Spain, and the Philippines should try to capitalize on the tourism industry.

"More than 1.7 million tourists coming into this country (each year) is miniscule considering that this country is at the center of Asia—three hours away from Japan and Thailand, three hours from Singapore and Malaysia and one hour from Hong Kong," he said.

"And yet, all the tourists go to Singapore. In statistics, Japan has the highest visitor rate," he said. "Bali alone has 10 million tourists a year."

"The Philippines is perhaps the only country in Asia with a smorgasbord nature for tourists. And by nature we are the most hospitable... and we can speak English," he said.

Roco's 1st test: Illegal schools

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE FIRST of the many problems plaguing the education sector was laid before newly appointed Education Secretary Raul Roco yesterday by private schools, which appealed for an immediate halt to the proliferation of illegal schools in the country.

The Federation of Associations of Private School Administrators (Fapsa) also urged Roco, who was appointed to head the Department of Education, Culture and Sports on Monday, to include former education undersecretary for programs Nilo Rosas in his new team.

Fapsa vice president Eleazar Kasilag said Rosas was the main link between DECS and the private schools and his resignation last year was a big loss to the private schools which have since gotten little help in dealing with the problem of illegal schools.

"While DECS has its focus on the public schools, we believe that with the retention of Rosas, the private schools will benefit," Kasilag said in a statement. "The DECS should look at private schools as part of its program and not consider them competitors."

He said the proliferation of illegal schools was adversely affecting enrolment in registered private institutions because of the lower tuition charged by the illegal schools.

Legitimate schools were reported to be losing 10 percent of their students to the mushrooming numbers of illegal schools every year, according to the Fapsa.

More than 1,000 schools in the country are not registered with the DECS and have not met the requirements set by the Education Act of 1982. Around 400 of these illegal schools are based in Metro Manila, it was learned.

The DECS closed down a Pasig-based unregistered school last year, but it was reopened after the school owner appealed to the erstwhile education officials for a grace period. The DECS had since relaxed its crackdown on illegal schools.

"The perennial problem of illegal schools in the country had been personally attended to by Rosas," Kasilag said. "The new DECS secretary will need the assistance of Rosas if we are to get rid of the bogus schools."

Rosas resigned from DECS early last year to pursue studies abroad.

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Gloria spends night at old room in Palace

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

CHEERS: President Macapagal and husband Mike Arroyo

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo spent the night in Malacañang for the first time on Tuesday, sleeping in the bedroom, which she occupied 35 years ago when her father Diosdado Macapagal was President of the country.

The room had once been occupied by Jackie Ejercito-Lopez, the daughter of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

In a radio interview yesterday, Jose Miguel Arroyo, the President's husband, said they had taken over the room, which had apparently been converted into a guestroom.

Asked whether they did not find the bed too small, Arroyo joked that he preferred an "even smaller bed so that we will always be hugging each other."

But he explained that the room had a "king-sized bed," a regular bed, "not antique."

He said they would be using the room, one of four in a private wing located in the second floor of the Palace, to save taxpayers thousands of pesos in refurbishing costs.

"It is not yet fully cleaned, we did not change anything. We did not spend anything," Arroyo said.

The Macapagal-Arroyos will be the first First Family to make their home in the Palace since the 20-year regime of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos chose to reside in the Arlegui mansion, while Estrada spent millions of pesos in public funds to convert the Palace guesthouse into a Presidential Residence.

Arroyo said some of the offices now occupying part of the Palace may be asked to move into the Presidential Residence.

Unlike the previous administration, Arroyo said the First Family would be very careful about the kind of people they would be entertaining in the Palace.

For one thing, he said their doors will be closed to suspected smugglers.

"That will not happen to us. They cannot enter Malacañang. We may even have them arrested," he said.

Earlier, Estrada's Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu said one of the reasons he resigned was because he saw suspected smugglers freely going in and out of the Palace and attending official functions.

Arroyo also said none of the Macapagal-Arroyo relatives or friends would be named to government posts nor would the new government create positions to accommodate them.

He said there will be "no office of the favorite son. Nothing at all."

Asked whether he was not daunted by his wife's being President of the Philippines, Arroyo replied: "I'm used to that. This is a matriarchal society. The wife is the boss. We are all obedient (husbands)."

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Can We Expel The Demon Of Faction From Our Politics?

Francisco S. Tatad

Senate Majority Leader

(Delivered on the Floor of the Senate, 22 January 2001)

On Saturday, Jan. 20, 2001, Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took her oath as 14th president of the Philippines. Within hours, President Joseph Ejercito Estrada was forced to vacate Malacanang. It was the second time a sitting president had been ousted in 15 years.

In 1986, a military revolt supported by civilians drove Ferdinand Marcos to Hawaii. This time, a civilian protest supported by the military sent Mr. Estrada packing home to Greenhills. In both instances, jubilation marked the fall of the incumbent. In Mrs. Aquino's case, however, she was hounded by coup attempts, and came dangerously close to being deposed, were it not for timely US intervention.

We hope and pray nothing of the sort happens to the new administration. We wish President Arroyo all the best. But she has a tough job ahead, and that is a gross understatement. The economy is in crisis, she will be expected to turn it around overnight. The nation is divided, she will be expected to unite it before the cracks deepen. She will have to pursue genuine healing and unification so that the extreme partisanship that marked the street protests and the Senate impeachment trial will now give way to genuine harmony and solidarity in pursuit of common goals. She will have to bind all wounds, soothe all hurts, and exorcise the demon of factions that has sown so much discord, enmity and hate among our people. In all this, she must communicate directly and clearly to the nation.

Those who prevailed at EDSA have a government to run now, not a government to bring down. The shoe is now on the other foot. Now that Estrada is out and Mrs. Arroyo is in, the task of defending the presidency and making it work belongs to her and her government, before it belongs to anybody else. She will not only have to avoid Estrada's mistakes, she will also have to offer her hand in peace. She will have to call off all those partisans who seem to believe that those who were not with them in the "Estrada, Resign" movement must now bear the brunt of their new power. They are not here to run a gang, they are here to run a government, a better government. And they must know that the lever used to raise President Arroyo to power could one day be used to bring her down. May it never come to pass.

The Senate as an impeachment court had a central role to play in the drama that ended last weekend. The Senate as a legislative body must now return to its normal work in ordinary times to support the program of the new government. It is the best it can do right now.

However, even as we slide back into our original role as legislators, may I be allowed on my own behalf to put on record certain facts and statements that relate to my role as a senator-judge in the now-adjourned Impeachment Court.

From the time we voted not to open the second envelope on Jan. 16th, I have been subjected to all sorts of threats, abuse and actual harassment from various quarters. First, it was the anti-Estrada forces. Now it is the other side. So I am getting it from both sides. And they have included my family as well.

Since I entered the Cabinet 32 years ago – I was then 29 – I have been exposed to all sorts of threats and abuse. It is part of public life. I have never made any fuss about it, whether it was a threatening phone call or note, a black ribbon or *barong*, a bullet inside an envelope or an actual bomb threat. But not even when I defied Marcos singly at the height of martial law was my family ever subjected to harassment. And all because of what? All because of a *principled personal stand* – a vote of *individual conscience* based on my *understanding* of the Constitution – at the Impeachment Court.

It is now clear – and the events have proved it – that the charges aired by the prosecutors in Court and in the media were *too large* for the Court to handle. Too large, because they included charges *not* specified in the Articles of Impeachment, but drummed up in court and in the media, and therefore *accepted* in the public mind as *part* of the case against Mr. Estrada. They included even the moral issues which we all knew about, but which were *never* alleged, and which are *not* mentioned in the Constitution as impeachable offenses.

Following the Constitution, which is our only guide in the impeachment process, these charges could *not* have been *legitimately* resolved by the Senate court. They had, therefore, to be resolved in another court – in the streets. And that is where they were ultimately resolved. But there is *no showing* that the senator-judges acted unconstitutionally or on a flawed conscience when they said *No* to the *conditional* reception of evidence *not required* by the Articles of Impeachment.

All this is now moot and academic. There is no point in prolonging the debate. My only desire is that if I should physically perish from the wrath of the unreasoning and the self-righteous my position on this should at least stay on the record. It is my hope that everything will stay on the record, and that a *sober, objective and scholarly* review of the facts, *at the proper time,* will show the next generations of Filipinos, if they care enough about the real truth, *who* among the senator-judges acted on the basis of the Constitution and the law, and who argued *argumentum ad populum* – appeal to people's lower nature – or *argumentum ad captandum* – appeal to popular passions – *just to please the crowd.* I would like to believe we acted according to the Constitution, not simply according to the passions of the moment.

On Friday, Jan. 19, 2001, I sent out an article to the press, courtesy of *The Moral Force,* explaining why I had said no to the opening of the "second envelope." In that article, I asked why, for all of Estrada's supposed billions in banks and all his supposed mansions for his mistresses, there was *not a single word – nothing, zero, nada* – about these in the Articles of Impeachment.

How did they expect us then to allow evidence to prove charges not specified in the complaint? Those who had long decided that Estrada should be removed, regardless of the evidence, had no problem with that. But what about those who believed that his removal must be conditioned on his conviction of specific charges properly proved? As an honest and impartial judge, I could not allow the continued reception, *even on a conditional basis*, of evidence in support of charges not specified in the complaint because it only misled our people into believing that the Senate *had* the authority, *which it did not have*, to try Mr. Estrada on every possible charge the prosecution could come up with, even if not specified in the complaint. Thus my controversial vote.

But by mid-afternoon of Jan. 19, it became clear that the real action against Estrada had already shifted from the Senate to the streets. It made no sense anymore to talk about the second envelope. I therefore withdrew the article and replaced it with a short statement, which said:

AT THIS MOMENT
THE CRISIS OF THE PRESIDENCY
AND THE CRISIS OF THE NATION
CAN NO LONGER BE RESOLVED THROUGH
THE SENATE IMPEACHMENT COURT.
PRESIDENT JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA MUST NOW
CONFRONT HIS DESTINY BY LISTENING
TO THE VOICE OF OUR PEOPLE IN THE STREETS.
RESIGNATION MAY BE THE ONLY HONORABLE WAY OUT.

As top military, police and Cabinet officials withdrew their support from the President, he responded by proposing a snap election, Fujimori-style, in which he would not run. I immediately said on *tv* that the proposal had no constitutional basis. By that time the Supreme Court justices had, according to reports, started looking at the emerging situation, and by morning of Saturday they had laid the constitutional basis for the Vice President's takeover. By noontime, Mrs. Arroyo was sworn in by the Chief Justice as the 14th president.

I have been asked on hindsight, whether I would have voted to open the second envelope if I had *known in advance* that its non-opening would cause my family such torment, and be used as a *casus belli* to resolve the case in the street. I believe I would probably have *abstained*, but *never* would have I been able to vote *against* my understanding of the *constitutional principle* involved. I could not have acted *against my true conscience*. You will, therefore, understand my dilemma when we voted on Jan. 16.

All this, of course, is now water under the bridge.

But sadly, those who prevailed at EDSA have shown little or no appreciation at all of the fact that *because of that principled vote*, for which they hated us so much, Mrs. Arroyo *now sits* as president. While they might have been unhappy that we did not vote to please the crowd, they have *no reason now* to be unhappy with the final result. Their prayers, for they have prayed for this new president, had been answered.

Has it not occurred to them that the good Lord, to whom they had been praying in all those public masses, had probably allowed the Court to vote as it did so that a greater good might be accomplished? Or were all those prayers intended to tell God what to do, instead of letting Him write the final script? Why so much hate, amid so much public worship? And why against those who tried to do impartial justice, and not against those who openly acted as accusers while sitting as judges? These were the ones who dishonored their oath.

As I said, because of that vote, I, and my family with me, had become the most hated in my neighborhood. But while my family was being harassed by my neighbors, that include *relatives of the new president*, I had begun getting abusive and threatening 'text' messages accusing me of having provided the "*motion, the vote, and the signal*" for the prosecutors to walk out and take their case to the streets. Of course, we hear it now from those who claim credit for the whole **EDSA DOS** episode that the walkout had all been pre-planned, that it was never their intention to let the Court finish its job. The senator-judges who were *not* in on *that* plan and who tried to do their job according to conscience just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. They were used; I was used.

I try to say this without pain or bitterness. It is not easy for me to do so. But God knows what is in my heart, as He knows what is in the heart of all those EDSA 'heroes.' Still others may be less understanding than I, and we cannot say what course of action they will take and what sentiments they will harbor in their hearts. This is why I say the new President cannot presume to preside over a normal situation unless she does everything to make sure that normality prevails. The situation is so politically deranged, so politically charged that she has no time to waste. She must swiftly and decisively sort this out.

This is not a personal or domestic view alone. It is also a view from outside. An article by Philip Bowring in the ***International Herald Tribune*** issue of Monday, Jan. 22, 2001, reflects this. Mr. Bowring is one of the most respected and incisive Asian hands, and he writes:

Filipino Democracy Needs Stronger Institutions

PHILIP BOWRING

> HONG KONG The ousting of Joseph Ejercito Estrada has provided the Philippines with a more competent president in Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, but it has left the notion of constitutional democracy in tatters.
>
> Mr. Estrada's removal may have been desirable and peaceful, but the end does not justify the means. A nation which sees itself as an Asian democratic exemplar now boasts only one normal succession, that of Fidel Ramos in 1992, since Ferdinand Marcos defeated Mrs. Arroyo's father, President Diosdado Macapagal, in 1965.
>
> In the short run, the sudden end to the Estrada corruption crisis will bring benefits. Much of the nation will heave a sigh of relief. The peso and stock markets will rise, some investment will return, neighbors and allies will be visibly happier dealing with a hardworking, well-educated, economically literate president used to mixing in elite circles and behaving with decorum.
>
> However, far from being the victory for democracy that is being claimed by leaders of the anti-Estrada movement such as Jaime Cardinal Sin, the evolution of events has been a defeat for due process. For many it merely confirms the fragility of political institutions in the Philippines and the likelihood that the streets will become a regular location of political action.
>
> Mr. Estrada has been ousted by a combination of forces, but neither the proper constitutional process (judgment by the Senate) nor the ballot box has been among them.
>
> It is not clear that, even after all the lurid corruption claims during his trial, Mr. Estrada would have lost had his future been put to a popular vote. For sure, the shortage of overt popular support left him vulnerable to the opportunist coalition of church, business elite and left that orchestrated the "People Power II" movement.
>
> But in the end it was not the mass protests which ended his presidency but the defection of the army brass. Cardinal Sin, as ever the ambitious king-maker, and former presidents Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos actively encouraged the military to take sides against a properly elected president. Had these self-proclaimed democrats forgotten how they were protected from Colonel (now Senator) Gregorio Honasan's coup attempts in 1987 and 1989, put down with U.S. help?
>
> Apart from Mr. Estrada, the loser in the last few days has been the Senate. Most senators voted against opening new lines of inquiry into Mr. Estrada's alleged assets. The opposition's refusal to accept this decision took the issue out of the constitutional process to the streets and the military. Whatever the individual senators' motives for voting as they did, they were the constituted authority.
>
> Was Mr. Estrada's crime corruption? Or his mistresses? Or incompetence? Or offending the elite by handing out favors to the wrong people? The lines are blurred. What remains clear is that politics (and the church, too, according to critics) in the Philippines now as ever is commonly financed by illegal gambling rackets, and by the interplay of contracts and favors between the center and provincial power holders.
>
> If it was likely that the evidence at the trial and Mr. Estrada's ouster would lead to a wholesale cleanup of the political process, the means of his removal might be justified. It looks unlikely.
>
> Mrs. Arroyo is from a family more deeply embroiled in the system than Mr. Estrada, the outsider, the film star whose celluloid celebrity mattered more than money. Her running mate in 1998, Mr. Ramos's choice of successor, was Jose de Venecia, a onetime Marcos associate famous for his persuasive powers with fellow congressmen.
>
> As the Philippine writer Joel Rocamora once put it, exposes of corruption form a vital part of the system of political competition, but nothing is done to end systemic corruption because the 'outs' do not wish to poison the wells for the day they become the 'ins.' To this day, no one has been jailed for the pillage conducted under the late Mr. Marcos. The Ramos administration was competent but hardly a model of clean government
>
> Mrs. Arroyo will want to run a technocratic administration. She has three years before the next presidential election. She will have a honeymoon period that should allow her supporters to do well in the coming congressional elections. But beyond that the situation is murky.
>
> For 30 years the Philippines has shown few signs of significant per capita economic growth despite billions in aid and remittances from overseas. The elite is inbred and selfish, the bureaucracy is weak, the connections between business and government are too close, and the church is opposed to the family planning needed to reduce poverty. Now the ideological left, never far from the surface, may be reinvigorated by its role in street politics.
>
> If strong institutions are the basis of good governance, it is hard to find much to cheer in the manner of Mr. Estrada's departure.

So President Arroyo will not have an easy job. She will need all the help she can get. Some will offer their help. Others will need to be asked. She has to be accessible and open to all, not just to a chosen few. She cannot indulge the vindictive spirit that ruined the magnificent promise of our restored democracy in 1986. She must reach out to everyone as President Fidel Ramos reached out to everyone when he assumed the presidency on a very slim and intensely disputed plurality in 1992. While preserving her ties with big business and the elite, she must win the trust and confidence of the poor, as Estrada once did. And while thanking the clergy for their help, she must make sure that where faith and morals are not at issue, the freedom of individual conscience and the constitutional rights of the state are never breached. She must help the bishops and priests make it possible again for Filipino Catholics of diverse political persuasions, ideas and beliefs to worship together as one inside the same church without being set against each other by politically inflamed letters or homilies.

As an old colleague in the Senate, I reiterate my best wishes for President Arroyo. I hope to fully support her legislative program, as soon as it is spelled out. But in the same manner that she will need the support of a strong Cabinet and equally strong allies in Congress, she will also need a responsible, constructive and dignified opposition to her government. As an independent member of the Senate, I shall be honored to help provide that service.

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ADVT.

Impeach court's job is done

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE SENATORS yesterday agreed there was no need to reconvene the impeachment court; they only need to pass a resolution formally terminating the trial of Joseph Estrada.

"Some senators expressed the apprehension that if we reconvene there could be unexpected debates on certain issues that might lead to Edsa 3, so we decided to simply adopt a resolution that the impeachment court is now functo sufficio, that it has run its course," Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad said after a one-hour caucus of senators.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has confirmed there were misgivings that if the court is reconvened, some issues could be raised to derail what was intended to be only a formal closing of the proceedings.

"So we will just write finish," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said a resolution to be signed by all senators would be enough to officially end the trial and to disband the court.

When told this would make the trial inconclusive, Pimentel said: "The conclusion is that he is now in Polk Street. The verdict is for him to get out of Malacañang."

Senate secretary Lutgardo Barbo said the evidence submitted to the court during the 24 days of trial, including the second Equitable-PCI Bank envelope containing alleged evidence of a P3.3 billion Estrada account, would likely be forwarded to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Barbo said Ombudsman Aniano Desierto wrote to ask for the second envelope and other evidence to be used in prosecuting Estrada.

Barbo said the records of the trial would be kept in the Senate archives.

Ancheta burial today

THE INTERNMENT rites for Ruben Ancheta, former commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, will be held today at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the Capuilla de Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Church in Forbes Park, Makati City.

People have spoken, says Perez

By Rocky Nazareno

PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada was removed from office by a direct action of the people—People Power—and this created the vacancy that allowed Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to succeed him as the country's 14th President.

This was stated yesterday by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez in a legal opinion in which he underscored that Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency was anchored on the "time-honored principle" of "*salus populi est suprema lex*—the welfare and will of the people is the supreme law."

"The people had spoken—the former President must go and be replaced by his constitutional successor," Perez said in the four-page legal opinion.

He added that the People Power that passed judgment on Estrada had a "constitutional basis."

Perez cited Section 1, Article II of the Constitution which provides that "sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them."

The new justice secretary also discussed at length the press statement of the deposed Estrada released on Jan. 20.

Erap statement

"The central issue... is whether or not the press statement... of the former President is equivalent to a resignation," he said.

Perez contended that "by his press statement... former President Estrada has effectively resigned."

"The intention to relinquish the office is very clear from his words," he said.

According to him, Estrada acknowledged the fact that Ms Macapagal had already assumed the presidency when he stated at the start of the statement: "Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as President of the Republic of the Philippines at 12 o'clock noon of Jan. 20, 2001."

"He acknowledged the necessary consequence of her oath-taking, that is, that President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office as President," he said.

Perez also pointed out that Estrada had "effectively foreclosed his right to question the legality and constitutionality of her (Ms Macapagal's) assumption to office by expressly stating that, notwithstanding any 'strong and serious doubts' which he might have regarding it, he did 'not wish to be a factor that will prevent the restoration of unity and order in our civil society,' and that 'for this reason... I now leave Malacañang Palace, the seat of the presidency of our country'."

Valedictory

"He gave a valedictory by expressing his gratitude to the people 'for the opportunities given to (him) for service to our people'," Perez noted.

Perez, likewise, explained that Estrada had made a promise to be of service again to the people, stating clearly that he "'will not shirk from any future challenges that may come ahead in the same service of our country'."

"His press statement clearly evinced his intention to relinquish the presidency and such intention was coupled with the actual relinquishment of his office when he left Malacañang Palace, 'the seat of the presidency', on the same date," Perez said.

Perez dismissed a letter that Estrada sent to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel last Jan. 22 as the former President's "afterthought."

The letter cannot have "the legal effect of restoring to him the office that he had already relinquished," Perez said.

The Estrada letter to Pimentel, antedated to Jan. 20, the day Ms Macapagal was sworn into office, arrived in the Senate last Monday. In it, he said that he was "unable to exercise the powers and duties of (his) office" and was designating Ms Macapagal as "acting President."

Analysts said Estrada was attempting to throw some legal doubt on the legitimacy of the Macapagal government.

PMA '71 rethinks 'adoption' of Erap

THEY will now have to think long and hard about it.

Members of Class 1971 of the Philippine Military Academy will now have to "evaluate" their earlier announced intent to adopt former President Joseph Estrada into their class regardless of the outcome of his impeachment trial.

"Who will sponsor him at this time?" asked class member Brig. Gen. Jaime Canatoy, chief of the Civil Relations Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Canatoy said yesterday the adoption of Estrada now "will have to be evaluated by the group."

Days before Estrada was ousted from office in a popular revolt, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, one of the more prominent members of Class 1971, announced that the class would adopt Mr. Estrada whatever the outcome of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Honasan, who was one of 11 senators who voted not to open an envelope believed to contain evidence against Estrada, said at the time the class was merely waiting for "public passions to die down."

"Public passions" did not cool, however, but heightened following the Senate vote not to open the envelope, resulting in the expulsion of Estrada from the presidency days later.

Another prominent member of the class, Gen. Panfilo Lacson, is now former national police chief. He had been closely identified with Estrada.

It was Lacson who had been pushing for the adoption of Estrada by the class since the latter was vice president.

Canatoy admitted the adoption of Estrada by their class at this time would only fuel speculation about their motives.

"After what happened, what do you think?" Canatoy asked rhetorically.

Canatoy said the adoption of outsiders needs a simple majority vote by the class.

"We haven't talked about it yet," Canatoy said. "Let's see who will sponsor him and present his membership before the class."

Carlito Pablo

Senate OKs P2.4B for May elections

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE SENATE yesterday approved a P2.45 billion special budget to finance the May 14 elections.

The passage of a special budget for the Commission on Elections was pushed in view of the failure of Congress to approve the proposed P725 billion national budget for this year.

The government operates on the same budget as last year.

Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate finance committee, reported to the chamber yesterday his meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo and her finance secretary, Alberto Romulo on Tuesday.

Osmeña said Ms Macapagal agreed to the allocation of a special budget to enable the holding of the elections for 12 Senate seats and all local positions.

Osmeña said the failure to provide a budget for the elections would result in a constitutional crisis.

Almost all of the senators co-authored the measure providing the P2.45 billion election budget.

Osmeña said the House of Representatives also passed a bill allocating the same election budget.

An Invitation To A Pilgrimage To
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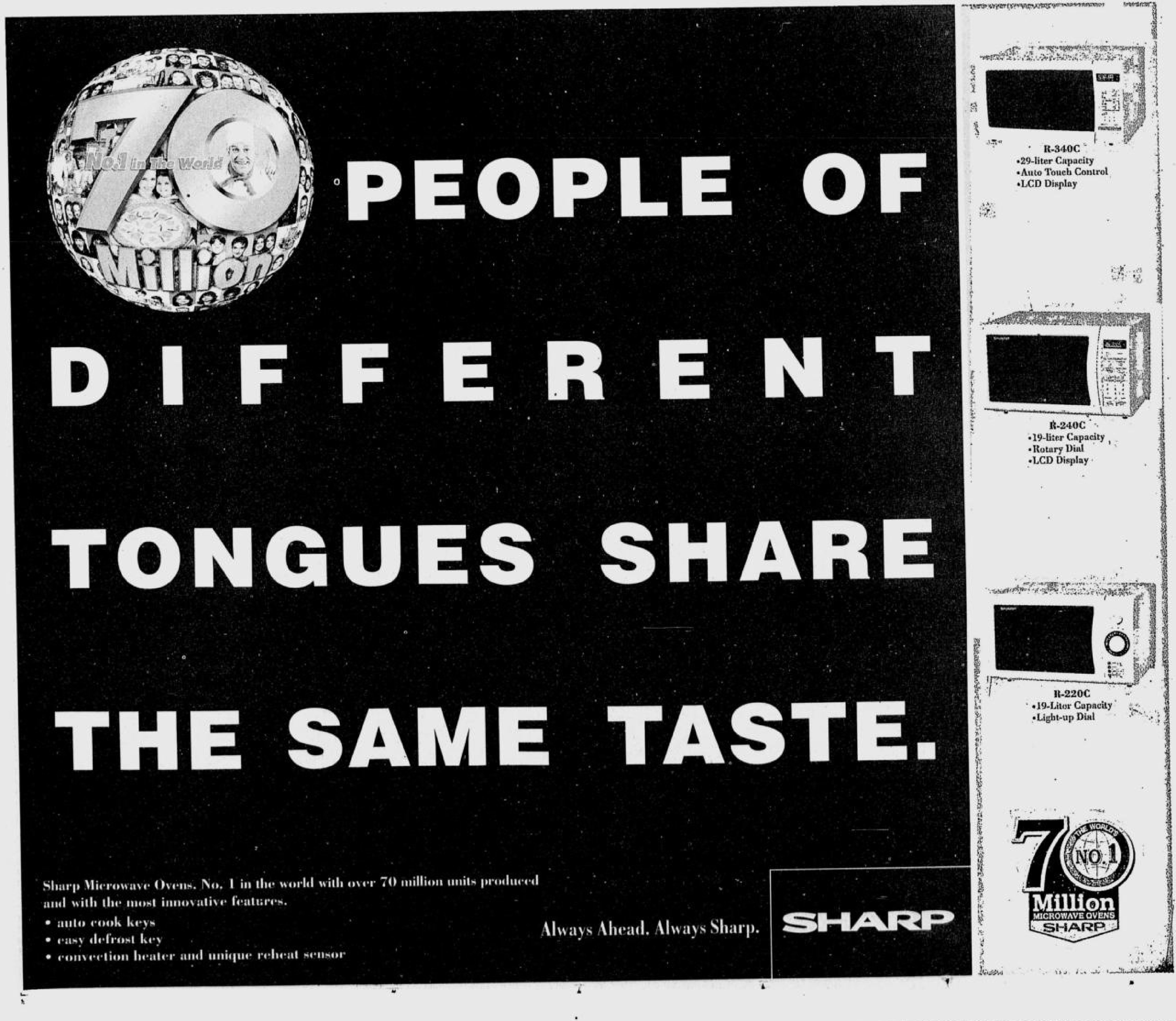
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OPINION

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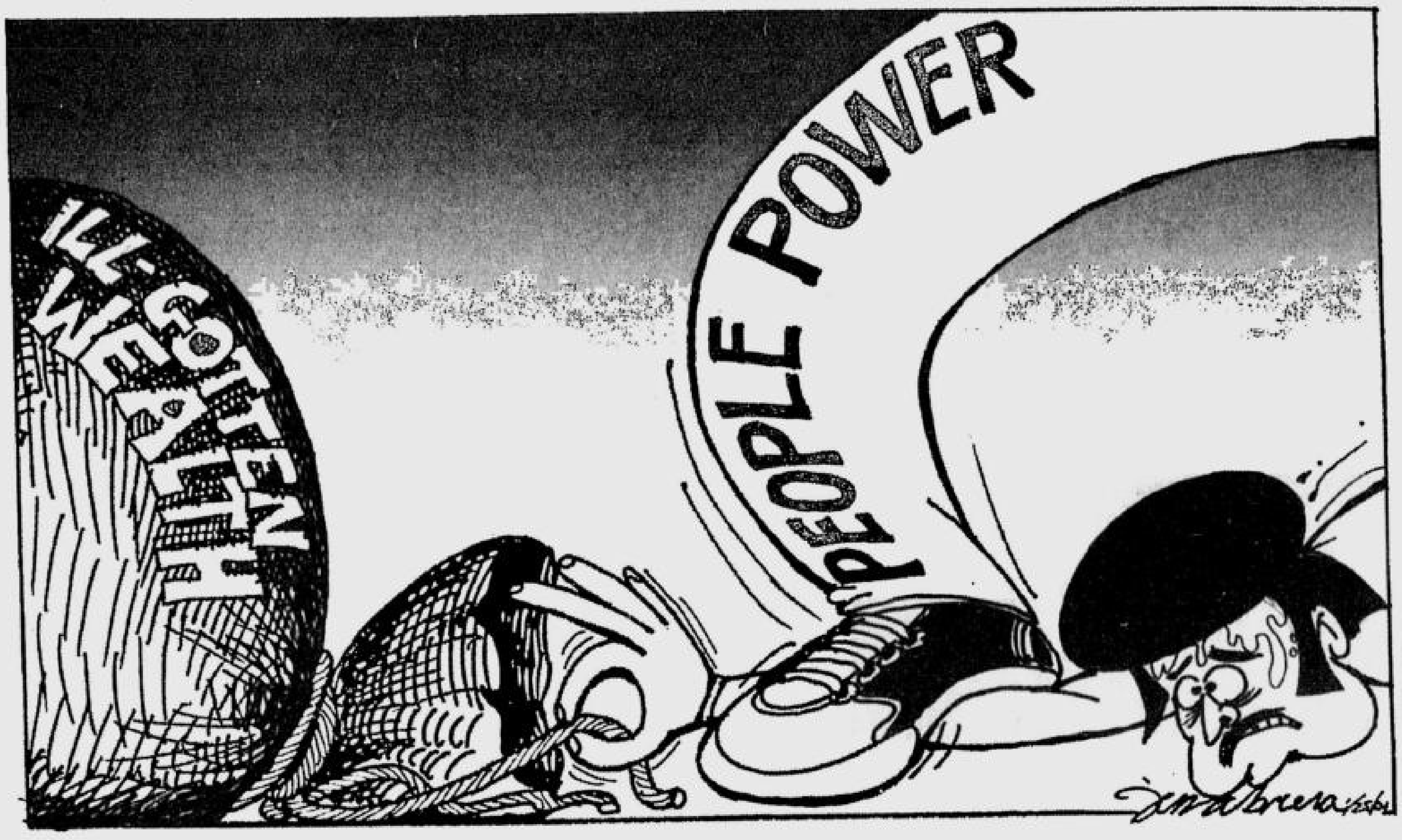

A good start

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has set the directions for her administration within days of her inauguration last Saturday. She defined in her inaugural speech the four core values that will guide her administration. And to emphasize the priority she is giving to rebuilding the shattered economy, she announced as her first appointee former Sen. Alberto Romulo as finance secretary.

Her first priority is to win within this decade the fight against poverty. The three other "core beliefs" are: improvement of the moral standards of government and society as the foundation for good governance; the replacement of the politics of personality and patronage with the "new politics" of party programs and dialogue with the people; and leadership by example. These beliefs are the opposite of those of Estrada.

The fight against poverty aims to capture the loyalty of the poor from their champion, deposed President Estrada, who manipulated them without transferring wealth to the masses. This is a good start. Her approach would be different. Rather than distribute goodies, she will alleviate poverty through programs. Through a different approach, she is seizing the ground formerly claimed by Estrada and is building a new constituency.

From day one, Ms Macapagal is trying to implant a work ethic and seriousness of purpose in the business of the presidency. There is a fresh air of professionalism, method and dignity in government, given that she has the academic preparation and work experience for the job. And her inauguration was fittingly held in austere circumstances, given the condition of the economy.

The market acted with euphoria to the change of administration. The peso exchange rate to the dollar strengthened, and the stock exchange index jumped by 17 percent on the first working day after her inauguration. The return of business confidence should reverse the steady economic decline before Estrada was deposed. But Ms Macapagal faces a tough climb to rebuild the economy, let alone maintain the new level of the peso-dollar rate of exchange. She does not have much time to lift the economy before the euphoria fades.

Already, the refusal by former President Joseph Estrada to concede that he has lost power and the coup rumors have rattled the market and peso rate again, emphasizing the honeymoon may be short-lived. She is racing against time to put her presidency on firm footing.

So far, she has made some generally good Cabinet appointments. Romulo's appointment to the finance department has been hailed by the business community. Most of the new Cabinet members are relatively young, belonging to her own generation of Baby Boomers. She has consolidated her support with the Armed Forces by retaining the chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, who withdrew the support of the military from Estrada. She will need its support to stave off any challenges to stability, but at this time, all the institutions of government, including Congress and the Supreme Court, have recognized the legitimacy of her administration.

Ms Macapagal has heeded the clamor from her allies in civil society for reconciliation with justice—meaning that crooks and cronies of the old regime should not go unpunished. Her new justice secretary, Hernani Perez, has acted swiftly to press for criminal prosecution of Estrada on charges of corruption and unexplained wealth. The government has frozen the Estrada family's bank accounts and has issued hold-departure orders preventing them from leaving the country.

These are signs the government means business this time. It has to show it can send crooks to jail, the way South Korea, for example, sent two former presidents to jail for wrongdoing. If People Power 2 cannot punish past wrongdoings, there will be no way to achieve real reconciliation. We failed to do that after Edsa 1.

A bandwagon of turncoatism is developing. Key supporters of the revolution are lobbying for jobs. In this lobbying, the President is well situated to insist that her choices and decisions must be based mainly on merits and considerations of larger public interests. She took office unencumbered by heavy political debts. Her supporters should bear in mind that the upheaval in the streets that deposed the very epitome of the spoils system in politics was about good government, not jobs for the boys. They should give her a free hand and accept her decisions without rancor. If she fails to live up to her four core principles, the march in the streets will have been in vain.

What happened behind Palace doors on that last day

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

YOU have seen and heard what happened at Edsa and Mendiola, at Malacañang and Polk Street when the Estradas left and arrived. But what happened inside Malacañang, behind the closed doors, before Erap threw in the towel? Nobody knows except those who were there. And nobody is talking. Even the hordes of journalists who staked out Malacañang for long hours were not able to see what went on inside. And so we are in the dark about what happened on the other side of People Power 2.

But I have found an eyewitness during those last hours of Erap in Malacañang who was willing to talk. Naturally, he wants to remain anonymous and I will respect his wish. I will just relate the events as he witnessed them.

In the morning of that fateful Saturday, Jan. 20, then President Estrada had no inkling that he would be an ex-President by noon. The night before, the opposition transition team had an agreement with Erap's own team that he would resign and leave the Palace on Wednesday yet. Erap therefore thought he had plenty of time. He was relaxed and calm. Nobody had started packing yet in preparation for departure from the Palace.

But unknown to the Palace, events were moving rapidly outside. At 6 a.m., groups of militants had detached themselves from the main body of People Power 2 at Edsa and started marching toward Malacañang. They believed rumors that Erap had asked for a five-day grace period to give him time to assemble one million pro-Erap people around Malacañang to shield it from anti-Erap forces. According to these rumors, they were to be supplied by Erap friends like Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Baby Asistio of Caloocan, Edno Joson of Nueva Ecija, and Mayor Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa.

These reports were false, according to my informant. How would Hagedorn, for instance, transport his contingent from Palawan to Malacañang? What is true, my informant said, was that pro-Erap mayors in and around Metro Manila were asked by telephone to send contingents. But except for the pro-Erap urban poor group already encamped on Mendiola, the others never made it. The anti-Erap phalanx was already on the way by sun-up of Jan. 20.

But neither Erap nor any member of his family and staff knew this. Erap had ordered all television and radio sets in the Palace turned off. He had already stopped reading newspapers. He had voluntarily isolated himself. So he didn't know that the end was coming.

Cabinet members started arriving by mid-morning to lend support. Ironically, these Cabinet men—Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles, Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma—were not among those who were very close to the President. Those who were really close to him were busy writing their resignation letters.

Hagedorn, who wasn't close to Erap either, arrived later "to give moral support," according to him. He was shown on television a few steps behind Erap as the family walked out of the Palace to the barge that would take them to Malacañang Park and the waiting limousines that would take them home to San Juan.

Later that morning, Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara received a phone call. "What?" he was heard to exclaim loudly. "That's a double-cross! We already have an agreement!"

Angara was being told by the caller that the Supreme Court had issued a ruling that then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could legally assume the presidency since the position was now considered vacant. Macapagal, he was told, was to take her oath of office at the Edsa Shrine at 12 noon. Malacañang was shocked by this news.

After this initial shook came another: the anti-Erap marchers were already at Mendiola, having routed the pro-Erap group there. They were reported to be preparing to rush to Malacañang.

"*Nariyan na sila* (They're here)," two civilian security aides with bandoliers across their bodies told Erap. "*Kung gusto n'yo, papuputukan na namin* (If you want, we'll start firing)."

"*Huwag, huwag*, (Don't, don't)," Erap told them. "*Aalis tayo* (We will leave). I don't want any bloodshed."

And so the panicky packing began. Clothes, documents, etc. were dumped into carton boxes. Closets, cabinets, desk drawers were left open; boxes and odds and ends littered the floor as if looters had gone through the Palace.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and his deputy, Maj. Gen. Jose Calimlim, soon arrived to escort the first family out of Malacañang. It was an emotional moment when the two top officers of the Armed Forces said goodbye to the President. They saluted and then embraced the President. Both of them were crying, especially Calimlim. They left soon after. It was time for Erap to go.

He was a good actor up to the very end. Even though his heart was breaking, he put up a brave front as one by one he shook hands and bade goodbye to the pitifully few Cabinet members left to him, to the members of the Presidential Security Group who protected him during the two years that he occupied Malacañang, to the members of his and the household staff, and to the few remaining loyal friends.

All this time, the media were barred from witnessing or recording what was happening inside the Palace. Hagedorn noticed this and suggested that the media be allowed in to record the events for history. Nobody seemed to be in command, so Hagedorn asked close presidential adviser and former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to allow media in. Puno didn't want to do anything. "Ask him," he said, meaning Erap. But Hagedorn couldn't get near Erap, so he asked Jackie Lopez instead.

"*Bahala ka na*," Jackie replied.

So Hagedorn told the PSG to let the media in.

What happened after that, you have seen many times on television.

Inherit the wind

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

AT LOCAL times of noon on Jan. 20, the daughter of a former president assumed the presidency in Manila while the son of another succeeded his father's successor in Washington. George W. Bush's problems, global in scope though they are, are not anything as immediately difficult as President Macapagal's.

Was her assumption constitutional? Yes, though so barely as to make a fig leaf look like an oversized toga in comparison. It was legalized by a Supreme Court resolution that invoked an unheard of expansion of the judicial power, and which was constitutionally dubious except that there is no higher judge left to appeal to. However, her supporters have argued that necessity recognizes no law and that it was unacceptable that the whole of the rest of the Constitution—and the country—should wither on the vine only so the technical provisions on President Estrada's term might live.

The withdrawal of military support for an administration is the first time the military has had a direct and now legal involvement in cutting short the term of a constitutionally elected and acknowledged president because in 1986, unlike 2001, the very question at issue was who the newly elected president was. This time there was no election dispute to speak of.

We have therefore had recourse to the praetorian power to change a democratic result. Some will argue this was necessary and to the good now. But it may be perhaps to evil effect the next time, or the next. The Roman maxim, often quoted during martial law, has come alive again, "When arms speak, the law is silent." The Supreme Court, then as now, dutifully ratified what the power of arms had already made constitutional by grafting into in its very resolution the non-support of the Armed Forces as a basis for the removal of Mr. Estrada. A weak Supreme Court and a strong military is a bad combination. The secret of democratic elections is out: according to the Supreme Court, you must win not only in the ballot box but in the barracks.

Moreover, last week's events increase the sense the nation outside the Edsa beltway has of their exclusion from decision making by "Imperial Manila." Twice, People Power, perforce, has been Metro Manila-based. One day, when opinion in the capital and in the provinces will be sharply divided on an issue such as this, national unity will be at risk and federalism will acquire new life and power. For now, all this may be forgotten in our eagerness to move ahead.

Could the then opposition have done anything else? It is easy for us to armchair-guess now. But they apparently felt they could not. They and President Estrada had a deeply shared distrust of each other. There was also impatience and anger following Tuesday's Senate vote on that second envelope. The result was a revolution, wrapped up in constitutional packaging, and where it didn't fit, the Supreme Court provided the packaging tape.

However, these very issues will probably be raised by Mr. Estrada in the criminal proceedings against him. He will argue that if he was not legally removed or did not resign, then he remains the legal president, if on leave, and as such remains immune from the legal processes until his legal term expires. Moreover, if there is merely an acting president, no new vice president can be selected, as there is no vacancy. The issue needs to be directly and quickly addressed by both Congress and the Supreme Court.

Is a former president subject to criminal charges, as are ordinary citizens? It is impossible to argue legally otherwise. A hearing and trial, which seem inevitable, may at least provide the former president an opportunity to explain those accounts as he has long promised. It will allow the truth to come out, something we are all aching to know.

But these proceedings will be labeled by Mr. Estrada as political persecution unless the investigation is carried without vengeance, and also unless there is an equal zeal to root out corruption among the administration's own supporters and allies. That suggests that big cases involving other previous administrations, from Marcos to Ramos, need to be vigorously pursued. But can the country or the political system survive such simultaneous trauma, however noble-minded?

As these dilemmas show, the new administration inherits grave difficulties. The budget deficit will not be so easily susceptible of solution: every administration talks of collecting old taxes due, as Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo now is. Regrettably, it will take much more than words to collect an extra P100 billion in taxes.

Then there are other tensions like that between the labor supporters of Edsa II, who want a huge legislated wage increase, and the business sector, which wants wage increases to come from productivity. The principles of a settlement with the Muslim separatists and the CPP-NPA need to be laid out. We need peace without surrender.

There is also the problem arising from high moral declarations and a personal assumption of accountability for ethical lapses. No administration is perfect although the previous one was indisputably rocked by more scandals than most. Remember how the Aquino administration's own popularity ultimately crashed against the reality of governance? High expectations can lead to a dangerous fall: ask Joseph Estrada, who had an 83-percent approval rating in December 1998 with only 7 percent disapproving, and the remainder in doubt. It has been a long, long way down.

The new President needs to fulfil the high expectations of ordinary citizens for reform without alarming the institutions that supported her rise to power, a difficult, perhaps ultimately impossible, balancing act. The presidency has been weakened by the Marcos and Estrada downfalls while the latest impeachment experience has greatly strengthened congressional, media and street power. Consequently, we may see more honesty in the upper echelons of the executive but more horse-trading and pork barrel politics in the legislature. And weaker government, just when we have harder problems.

Despite these problems, and because of it, the new President comes to office with considerable popular goodwill and with the hope and expectation that she will live up to her promise of being a good President. She needs to bring us together in healing, yet let justice prevail. She needs to temper the triumphalism and rein in the barely disguised arrogance of some of her supporters. She needs to craft a reputation for honesty throughout government. And above all, she needs to get the economy going without forgetting the hopes of those millions of poor who were the constituency of Joseph Estrada.

If she can do this, she will earn not only reelection but a place of the first rank in our history. If she does not, she will, like the administration before hers, inherit the wind.

The world recognizes GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo is "acting President," according to former President Joseph Estrada. One wag, however, notes that between the two of them, it's Estrada, not Macapagal, who is the actor.

Two groups of Estrada sympathizers have questioned the legality of Macapagal's assumption of the presidency. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago raised this issue in the Senate, while in the House, Rep. Didagen Dilangalen threatened to file an impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. The trouble is that they are questioning the legality before the Supreme Court which had unanimously agreed to swear in Macapagal last Saturday.

* * *

Moreover, the presence of the foreign diplomats at that *vin d'honneur* in Malacañang the other day demonstrated their respective governments' recognition of and support for the new President. In a recent conversation, former Speaker Joe de Venecia, who is vice president of Christian Democrats International, told this columnist that more than 90 major political parties in Europe, America, Asia and Africa represented by Christian Democrats, who hold a majority in the European Parliament, have already declared support for Macapagal. The CDI parties, he said, promised to help stimulate the return of foreign investments to rebuild the shattered economy.

* * *

Maghabol na si Erap. That is how people feel about these attempts to question the legality of Macapagal's takeover. They are in no mood to entertain any debate on this issue since they want stability. At best, Estrada's refusal to resign formally is viewed as an undisguised ploy to continue claiming immunity from suit (since a sitting president cannot be haled to court). But this no longer holds water, as he has been unable to rule since last Friday. A female lawyer pointed out on TV recently that Estrada's Jan. 20 letter said he was leaving Malacañang since Macapagal was taking her oath as President, not as "acting President." To acknowledge her as President, this lawyer said, was a blunder on Erap's part, thanks to the bright lawyers surrounding him.

* * *

Around the world, Filipinos can once again walk tall and proud. Our family friend, Fr. Joe Quilongquilong, one of five Pinoy Jesuits based in Rome, e-mailed that the OFWs there were being congratulated by their Italian employers with "Brava, Brava Filippina!" Father Joe, himself the recipient of "Bravo" and "Auguri" greetings from his foreign colleagues, said the People Power events hogged the headlines in CNN, BBC and other European news centers, stealing the thunder from the Bush inauguration.

* * *

Last Jan. 18, at the height of Edsa Dos, the Filipino priests and religious in Rome assembled at the Sentro Pilipino in Basilica Santa Pudenziana to reiterate their call for Erap's resignation, which they first made last November. Quilongquilong believes that St. Peter the Apostle was with them during that meeting since the basilica was built on one of the houses where the apostle had stayed. During the crisis, the Pinoy group also wrote a letter to Pope John Paul II urging him to pray for the Philippines, while the priest-students at the Pontificio Collegio Filippino devoted their nightly communal prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament to praying that truth and morality and peace and non-violence would prevail back home.

All the 38 Filipino Catholic communities in Rome will have a thanksgiving Mass this Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, which is only appropriate, says Father Joe, since it is the first Christian church dedicated to our Blessed Virgin Mary, the tireless intercessor for the Filipino nation.

* * *

UP College of Law associate professor Ma. Lourdes A. Sereno, who specializes in international economic law, disputes the claim of the legal counsel of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Juan de Zuniga, that dollar deposits are absolutely untouchable under PD 1246. She says that by virtue of a subsequent legislation, BP 180, the idea that there can be any property exempt from inquiry in graft and corruption proceedings has been rendered unacceptable.

Sereno points out that the 1982 law categorically made an exception by allowing inquiry into bank deposits to determine the existence of unexplained wealth "notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary." The Supreme Court also narrowed the protection over FCDUs by saying it can only be invoked by foreign lenders or investors in the case of Salvacion v. Central Bank (1997). Sereno points out that PD 1246 was issued in 1977 to address the reluctance of foreign investors to bring their dollars into the formal market. At that time, the black market was the more robust market for foreign exchange trading. This was because of the lack of transparency in the market mechanisms of the Marcos regime.

* * *

Since the 1987 Constitution, Sereno says, the economic policy environment of Marcos was rejected and emphasis is now given to full transparency. Moreover, subsequent legislation imposed higher ethical standards for public officials. The regime of deregulation and transparency requires full disclosure in the stock market and honesty and fealty to the public trust by financial institutions. The international legal environment is also fast moving against organized crime. There are also draft conventions, international executive agreements and country-to-country cooperation against money-laundering, the maintenance of tax and legal havens for criminal organizations and fly-by-night corporations, and corruption by governments and bribery by multinational corporations.

Sereno points out that while the privacy of legitimate private bank accounts remains protected by present laws, the new policy environment dictated by the 1987 Constitution and the evolving regime of financial transparency no longer sustain the old "sacred cow" position. The Supreme Court in at least two groundbreaking cases, the Oposa and Manila Hotel cases, requires fealty to the principles of the Constitution even when the specifics of these principles have yet to be fleshed by appropriate legislation.

* * *

Sereno maintains that the Bangko Sentral cannot push for the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Bill and at the same time adopt a "hypertechnical and narrowly textual interpretation of PD 1246, since these are entirely irreconcilable positions." It shows a lack of appreciation of the policy environment demanded by the Constitution and subsequent legislation. It is to ignore the cry of the people for transparency and decency and to posit that the law is there "to prevent the people's demand for a fair inquiry into whether their money has been siphoned off by criminal elements in government." This position is unacceptable, she says, "because it is fundamentally morally flawed and therefore, cannot also be legal."

Telling the story of People Power 2

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I WISH they told me the departure of ex-President Erap from Malacañang to Polk Street would be the result of a "constitutional coup" and not of People Power 2. Then I wouldn't have left my snug bed at midnight to join the throng in a noise barrage along Katipunan Avenue, and then proceeded to the Edsa Shrine where thousands more gathered in a spontaneous combustion of rage, disappointment, betrayal and righteousness.

I wish they told me that "People Power" was actually "sparked" by retired and active generals who planned to arrest Erap, and not by people from all walks of life who sacrificed sleep, comfort and safety to keep vigil at the Edsa Shrine and in centers all around the country. Then I wouldn't have contributed my own presence and urged my own children and hubby, as well as my siblings, their children and our friends, to join the raucous crowd at Edsa. I wouldn't have spent all my waking hours in strategy meetings and media interviews, or in making sandwiches and preparing coffee packets. After all, the generals were taking care of everything.

Yes, I wish those danged generals had come out early enough, putting their careers and lives on the line, the same way humble, ordinary men and women, majority of them below age 30, risked their careers, studies, income and health to be counted.

Where were the retired and active generals, now claiming credit for their "constitutional coup" that they say actually led to Erap's ouster, Tuesday night and Wednesday early morning, when people knew they were risking the batons and tear gas of police even then threatening illegal assembly? And if they were going to move regardless, why did these generals have to wait and let us spend three tiring days on our feet, shouting ourselves hoarse, subsisting on fish balls and pissing on sidewalks? I mean, what kind of coup is it when you start moving only when everything's over but the shouting?

* * *

LIKE those ingrates, Enrile and Honasan, after People Power 1, the generals are attempting to rewrite history, or at least tell the story from their point of view.

Ordinary folks at Edsa 1 remember it as the populace pouring on to the highway to protect the lives of a band of military and civilian adventurists who botched their attempt at a coup. Enrile and Honasan to this day claim the story should focus instead on the heroic "freedom fighters" in the military who challenged the dictator so they could install a civilian-military junta. Yeah, right. They loved freedom so much they tried in the following years to snatch it away from us in a series of coup tries.

Now it's the generals' turn, with retired Gen. Eduardo Abenina saying the events of the past week were not the result of People Power 2 but of a bloodless takeover of government led by the military.

Oh yeah? Then what were the people at Edsa and elsewhere around the country—special effects? If these brave men in uniform were so sure of themselves and the success of their plan, why did they have to wait until the crowds at Edsa reached a critical mass? Why did they have to be goaded off their fat asses by a march from the Edsa Shrine to Mendiola by ralliers threatening to drag Erap out of the Palace, feet first?

The real story of People Power 2 is not of the military coming to the rescue of the people. It is of the military joining the people in common cause and withdrawing support for the Estrada administration. If there was indeed a coup being plotted by Abenina and friends, then it was a coup that simply rode on an earlier action mounted by civilians. It was the ordinary folk who caught the military unawares.

* * *

PEOPLE who were there, who were at the Edsa Shrine, who marched to Mendiola, who gathered in plazas or public parks around the country, and who staged their own brave little pickets in foreign capitals, these people know what the real story is. They know, by the evidence of their own experience, memory and feelings, that they didn't need the assurance that the generals would "turn" before they lent their bodies to the cause of ousting an unfit leader.

The opposite, in fact, is true. It was the generals, and their soldiers, who needed to be convinced first that the anti-Erap movement could gather enough numbers and win over public opinion before they would risk any move. In short, they sought the mantle of protection provided by public support and presence at Edsa before they willingly took the risk and joined the people.

That's all right, we don't begrudge them their caution. There is no cut-off date or time, after all, for seeing the light and jumping over to the side of righteousness. But to now claim to a foreign correspondent that the people's uprising didn't matter, that it was this "constitutional coup" that was responsible for yanking Erap out of office— that's the height of chutzpah and gall.

No one denies the about-face by Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and Defense Secretary Orly Mercado was indeed a turning point for People Power 2. But no one should forget, either that People Power 2 began unexpectedly, without planning or organizing, or even need of agitating. It was pure anger and disgust, and the search for an outlet for our frustrations and suspicions building up in the month or so of the impeachment hearings, that called us out to the streets that Tuesday night. The story began not with coup plotters, politicians, organized groups or even text messages. It found its first chapter in our hearts, and in our collective yearning for justice and truth.

We are the authors of the story of People Power 2, and of Erap's departure. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

'Seven in the Eye of History'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

ON WEDNESDAY afternoon last week, while thousands of protestors were beginning to mass at the Edsa Shrine to seek the ouster of President Estrada, seven people were being ushered into history via a book, titled "Seven in the Eye of History." Two of the seven—former President Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin—were supposed to be the special guests of honor at the book launching held at Villa San Miguel, the cardinal's residence. Sin, being the host and "in the eye," was supposed to give a short speech.

The launching went on without Cory and Sin. They were at Edsa reprising their 1986 role. They couldn't make it even to the tail-end of the program. But everyone understood. While we were launching "Seven in the Eye of History" people were making history out there. Can you beat that?

And because the launching was just a few blocks away from Edsa, people who attended the launching were either rushing in from or rushing out to join the upheaval. The guests as well as the authors were either in formal black or in street black, the color of protest. Dr. Bien Lumbera, one of the authors, came in running shoes, straight from Edsa.

The launching was well attended. The hall was full. People ate, bought books, had them signed and then headed for Edsa. At that time we didn't think that in three days Estrada would be ousted and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would become President. Now it's time to put together another book. Who will be the first? The INQUIRER, I hope.

"Seven in the Eye of History" is about seven Filipino individuals, three of whom have passed on to the Great Motherland in the Sky. The 439-page book was edited by veteran editor Asuncion David-Maramba and written by 14 writers. Her plug: "Seven personalities and seven significant historical backdrops written by the country's foremost movers in the academe and media."

The magnificent seven and backdrops are: Publisher (founding chair of the INQUIRER) **Eugenia Duran-Apostol**/The Press During Martial Law (by Lorna Kalaw Tirol/Vicente G. Tirol); **President Corazon C. Aquino**/The Aquino Presidency (Neni S.R. Cruz/Adolfo S. Azcuna); Kalinga chief **Macli-ing Dulag**/Cordilleran History, Culture and Society (Ma. Ceres P. Doyo/Nestor T. Castro); "comfort woman" **Ma. Rosa Henson**/The Japanese Occupation (Sheila S. Coronel/Angelito L. Santos); NDF leader **Luis G. Jalandoni**/The Leftist Movement (Fides M. Lim/Bienvenido Lumbera); 1971 Constitutional Convention delegate **Eduardo T. Quintero**/The Philippine Constitution (Lita Pedrosa Hidlago/Wilfrido V. Villacorta); **Jaime Cardinal Sin**/Church-State Relations (Dulce Festin-Baybay/Ferdinand R.S. Santos).

We had a pleasant surprise when the sons of Macli-ing turned up. I was earlier told that they would not be able to come. But they came, all the way from Kalinga. Francis Macli-ing gave the response (in Kalinga, I made sure) on behalf of his family.

Wrote Maramba in her prefatory essay: "Each of their specific historical eye became a defining moment, a central factor...The moment was crucible, point of no return, last straw. Variously they responded as victim, as casualty, as protestor, as initiator, as catalyst, as builder. And in doing so, they made history. Certainly they changed it; certainly they set it on another course. No one can say history 'determined' them; history was mere 'occasion'. It is they who chose to connect with history. They could have said 'no' but didn't...Without blinking, each one said, 'yes!'"

Kalinga leader Macli-ing Dulag, I said during the launching, literally launched my journalism career. You will have to read the book to find out why. I did not meet the man. But I was able to touch his blood. It sure did something to my hand, my writing hand, and to my mind and heart as well. My life was never the same after that.

At that time, there was little that had been written in the media and in history books about the people who live in the mountains, about the men who wore G-strings and women who carried their bare breasts proudly and without shame. For so long, little attention was given them, they were looked upon as mere tourism objects and subjects of study. But that was not what they were entirely all about. They had a struggle. And Macli-ing was the personification of that struggle. This man who knew not when he was born.

Macli-ing was brave to the end. Those who slew him were the cowards. Macli-ing was unlettered, yes, but he possessed the wisdom of many generations, or rather, he was possessed by it. He fought to preserve the land of the ancients, our heritage, the wilderness of this planet. His cry: "*Kayao!*"

I feel privileged to have written not just in the medium called journalism, but now, INTO HISTORY—through this book—the struggle, the life of this man, this martyr, this noble warrior.

(The book should be in the stores now. If it isn't, call Anvil at 6711899. It sells at P650 but a cheaper edition will be printed.)

Editorial prescience: On Oct. 9 last year, while waiting in Club Filipino for Gov. Chavit Singson to explode his bomb on President Estrada's involvement in *jueteng* and tax payoffs, I received a message from the editor in chief. Could I write a side bar that would suggest that Singson's move could presage a People Power 2? I was to ask people if they thought Singson's move might lead to that.

I was skeptical but I did my job. I thought it was too contrived. In Pinoy journalese, SS (for *sariling sikap*). The story came out the next day. I think Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile pooh-poohed the suggestion that Singson was doing an Enrile 1986. No military backing, some people said.

One week after that, during a one-on-one interview for a profile, I asked Singson what he thought. He merely shrugged: See you in jail, he said, addressing Estrada, "*doon na lang natin ipagpatuloy ang naputol nating pagkakaibigan.*"

Exactly 100 days later, what did we get?

Fatherhood

YOUNGBLOOD

Mike B. Muin, M.D.

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

IN A FEW months, I will be a father. Although still unborn, my baby is stirring up in me a tumult of emotions, dreams, hopes, fears and love.

When I saw his first "picture" (his ultrasound image), I almost cried. It was a defining moment for me and I was pushed into a state of confusion. I needed to find a wall to lean on and gather the strength to face the chaotic mass of passions and sentiments forming in my mind. That was the time I remembered my father and the valuable lessons he taught me.

My father grew up in the poor Muslim village of Rio Hondo in Zamboanga City, where my grandmother raised him alone after my grandfather left them for a third wife. He told me that one time, when he was still a teenager, his father did not recognize him when they passed each other on the street. He practically grew up without knowing who or what a father should be to his children. And yet that did not stop him from being a responsible and loving father to us.

My father taught by example. He never gave specific instructions or pointers; that wasn't his style. Lessons on life and fatherhood leapt out of his actions and they seemed to grab us by the arm, take us aside and lecture us to death. However, such lessons never really sink in, unless a man finds himself in a situation that demands that they be remembered and practiced. And that is exactly the situation I am in now.

My father showed me that parenthood is a personal sacrifice. "Ha!" others would say, "that's obvious." But I beg to differ. As children, we seldom realize that our parents were individuals before they had us. They had their own imaginings, personal longings and secret dreams. And they put all these on hold—shelved like a bottle of red wine and reserved for special occasions that never seem to come. For me then, my parents were a collective presence that defined their existence through my needs. I realize now that they sacrificed many a dream so that we could live in relative comfort and afford small luxuries. As the "empty-nest syndrome" grips my parents now, I see them pursuing and living out some of those long-lost passions.

In these times when the individual is king, I have to marvel at that kind of sacrifice. I see some of my dreams fade into the background, as a more purposeful goal begins to form, and that is, to give my child the chance to dream big.

My father has acquired quite a few designations and titles over the years. And he is a number of things to a number of people. My father is a lawyer—a prosecutor, to be precise. He holds a master's degree in national security administration and is also a reservist Navy commander. He has fulfilled his religious task of making a pilgrimage to Mecca. And, he is also a frustrated singer.

When we go out, we can hear people address him as "Attorney." "Fiscal," "Master," "Commander," "Hadji" or "Elvis." And yet, nothing can get his immediate attention and make him drop everything as the word "Papa." That is one title, I believe, he will treasure as long as he lives. It seems that his motto in life is: "I am a father before anything else."

He never exactly said that, but his actions have more than stressed that point. He would rather be late for work than miss our small talks in the morning when we were still in grade school. He would rather make up lame excuses for not reporting for work than tell us he couldn't go to some inconsequential school ceremony which we were bound to forget a few years later. I do not remember how many ceremonies I had to attend, but one thing is certain: my father was there on every occasion, proud and absent from work.

When my car was stolen in Manila during my college days, he cried on the phone, not because of the loss, but because he could not be with me physically to comfort me. He flew in from Zamboanga City the very next day.

The importance he gave to his role as a father made us feel completely secure when we were growing up. We never worried about whether he would be there. Instead we were likely to protest: "Papa, why are you here? It's prom night!"

My father believed in investing in memories. He never believed in giving quality time—sometimes. He spent with us quality time, all the time. I grew up with fond memories of fishing with only a hook, line and sinker. Poles were a luxury we did not have or need. You caught a fish on account of the dexterity of your hands.

Biking was a favorite pastime. All of us his three sons had a cheap bike, but when we all rode out with Papa, each of us would take turns riding at the back of his bike.

Brownouts, which were frequent in Mindanao then, were spent playing chess by candle light. Even now, when brownouts occur, I have an urge to play chess.

Brownouts were also for story telling. Papa would make up stories about our forefathers. In the darkness, we became the long-lost relatives of Lapu-lapu, or the descendants of Muslim pirates that terrorized Spanish boats.

On Sundays, Papa would sleep in a barbershop while we heard Mass with Mama. But afterwards, we would go together for a buffet lunch in the only hotel in Zamboanga City then or have a picnic at the beach, or just eat homemade steak on the porch of our house.

All these reflected a belief he deeply held that a man's success is best measured through the eyes of his children.

I can proudly say that my father continues to live a successful and fruitful life. Right now, he is a grandfather to two boys, one each from my brothers. Another blessing is now growing inside my wife.

As the days pass, moving toward that beautiful day, when I will first hold my baby, and when my baby first grabs my hand, I feel a certain confidence just knowing that I am my father's son. If I could live my life as a father with but just half of my father's passion, I know, through the eyes of my child—and through the eyes of my father—I will be a successful man.

Mike B. Muin M.D., 28, is a graduate of the UP College of Medicine, and is currently a surgical resident trainee in a private hospital in Manila.

THEY SAID

Eleven Plagues

"We condemn the Eleven Plagues of the Senate...The damage these partisan senator-judges have caused to the nation and to the truth is incalculable."

—University of Santo Tomas rector Fr. Tamerlane Lana

Missed opportunity

"Our disillusionment stems from your having been presented with a great opportunity to make a difference and your refusing to take it."

—Former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia and former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao to Sen. Francisco Tatad

Difficulty

"In a real sense, there is a constitutional difficulty that the country is meeting because we have lost the one means of determining whether the President is guilty or not."

—Sen. Raul Roco

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Dismayed

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AGAIN my boundless thanks to the letter writers from all over the world who have made column-writing a more thankful job. I thought my column on Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had broken all records in reactions, but that was soon supplanted by my column on the events of Tuesday last week (the comments particularly centered on Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta's "dance," most of them not being fit to print), which was itself soon supplanted by my letter to the President last Monday. Again, too, my apologies to those who want replies. Maybe one day, but right now it's really all I can do to just read your letters.

Two readers say they were dismayed (to use my word, they add) to hear me say on CNN last Sunday that I found the negotiations between Erap and Gloria's representatives secretive and that I could not understand how Jaime Dichaves and Atong Ang managed to slip through the Naia. "Prudence tells us," says Cecile Pet, "that (what was being discussed) at the time could not be revealed at that moment. We just had to trust our negotiators." Aggie Bautista-Cabugao, on the other hand, who identifies herself as the daughter of a newspaper editor and a presidential speechwriter, says: "GMA did not send negotiators, but emissaries. And they were sent to give Erap his walking papers. The fact that Erap did not resign meant that he didn't get any concessions."

As to Dichaves' and Ang's escape Pet says, "If you may recall, Atong Ang left in the morning before the swearing in of the new President. Hence, she did not have any power yet to order anything." Bautista-Cabugao, on the other hand, says: "You've often written of human rights violations. It would have been a violation of their human rights if they were detained at the airport without any hold order. And there were no hold orders because no charges had been filed against them."

Both admonish me to give the new President a chance. "These (my comments at CNN)," says Pet, "are the small things that can destroy public trust which we need to build up painstakingly. I hope you welcome this note." Bautista-Cabugao, on the other hand, says: "More than Edsa 1, Edsa 2 has manifested the power of the people. And people think, decide and act based on the information that they receive. Much of that information comes from media. So you in media have the greater power—tremendous and awesome—to shape public opinion and move people to action. I hope and pray that you will use this power responsibly and wisely. I therefore request that you cut GMA some slack. At this fragile stage of her incumbency, she needs all the support she can get. Let us not rush to judgment. God bless you and the INQUIRER. Keep up the good fight."

First off, my deepest thanks to both of you. Be assured that your comments are most welcome. But I beg to disagree with most of your points.

There was reason to feel betrayed at the way Gloria's representatives kept the talks under wraps. At the very least, there was the context in which it was done. I was in Channel 2 at the time, along with Joker Arroyo, Teddy Boy Locsin and Pepe Miranda, and I remember that all of us were alarmed at the thought that the opportunists and power-grabbers were poised to take advantage of a critical situation. Teddy Boy was concerned the people in uniform, who had just made an 11th-hour appearance at the shrine, would find an excuse to use force against Erap and claim credit for ousting him, as they did at the first Edsa. I was concerned that the case against Erap would be dropped, and that all noises to the contrary afterward, he would be given a graceful exit. Tina Monson-Palma would ask us what we thought the negotiators and Erap were talking about. Joker would say, "*Ano pa*?" I leave him to explain what that meant. I took that to mean they were cutting a deal.

Those concerns were not ours alone, they were shared by many people. Not the least of them those who kept vigil at Edsa awaiting word of Erap's going, people who had been betrayed once at their hour of victory. The one thing Gloria and company most needed to do was to assure them People Power 2 was not going the route of People Power 1. Instead, they kept them in the dark. Whatever the results of the talks were—and I do not share the optimism that they were very high-minded, Veronica Pedrosa would later tell me she had interviewed a Palace official and had been told Gloria would rather leave Erap's prosecution to the private sector than take the initiative herself, which is typical—the process left a bad precedent. If they could do this then, they could do it again and again.

Which they have. Tony Carpio, Fidel Ramos' legal adviser whom Ramos let go of from embarrassment, is back and is maneuvering in the shadows to get the wrong people into government. You start out without transparency, you'll end up without transparency.

Call Gloria's representatives negotiators or emissaries, but I don't know why I should naturally trust them. At the very least because they represent Gloria, not People Power 2. There is a difference. Unlike Cory who embodied People Power 1, Gloria does not embody People Power 2. She is not the originator of People Power 2, she is the end result of it. Her claim to the highest position in the land is purely legal, not moral.

Bert Romulo, Renato de Villa, and Hernando Perez may be good people (I know Romulo to be so), but they represent traditional politics. More to the point, they represent a group that came only when everything was ripe for the plucking. They do not represent the people who were there from the start, who toiled, when everyone was busy coming to terms with Erap, without fanfare, without help and without a thought for themselves to free the country from a plague: the NGOs, the people's organizations, the civic groups, the texters and e-mailers, and, as one letter writer did well to remind me, the youth who harkened to the call of the present and so changed their future.

None of them counted there among those who came with shovel and pickaxe to dig Erap's grave. Satur Ocampo would say bitterly afterward that they were filled with déjà vu. The door had banged on them the first time around, the door had banged on them the second time around. Call him communist or solipsist, he had every right to be dismayed. (*Concluded tomorrow*)

No more Edsas, please

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE MONDAY after we ousted Erap, I got a text message from a student asking if it was true there wouldn't be classes that day. Another one followed calling on people to be prepared for another Edsa because Erap and Enrile were plotting a coup. My worst fears had come true: Edsa revolts have become addicting.

There's a real danger we're going to start thinking of Edsa as some kind of magical oasis where you get people together to solve the country's problems. I am not downplaying what happened at Edsa, but the miracle wasn't Edsa itself but our being able to do so much with our young and fragile democratic institutions. If we can just strengthen this democracy, we just might spare ourselves the need for Edsa-type mobilizations in the future.

People began the rallies and the Erap resign movement as part of asserting our constitutional rights. But it was also respect for the Constitution which allowed the impeachment trial to proceed, despite suspicions that it would be a futile exercise. In the end, the trial failed not because the judicial process was faulty but because Erap's defense lawyers and senatorial allies were so brazen in parodying those procedures. Suddenly, democracy wasn't just some abstract word in our textbooks. It was a whole way of life that had to be defended.

But it wasn't just anger that mobilized people. Without political education and organizing, which included years of work from cause-oriented (read "leftist" groups), we would not have seen the rallies we had. The march from Edsa to Mendiola, for example, which received far too little media coverage, showed a side of the Filipino we need to see more often: a determined and disciplined sense of purpose. Without this orientation, the rallies would have turned into anarchic mobs like what happened with the pro-Erap bands that showed up in Mendiola for a last show of force.

Through all this, the military and police watched and waited, and then moved at the last minute to join the anti-Erap forces. It would be naïve to believe they "converted" spontaneously. Their ranks include many who are more comfortable in a business suit or in denim jeans than in combat fatigues. The officers are thinking people, many with graduate degrees, upset too with graft and corruption and cronyism within their own ranks.

Someday historians will be able to piece together what happened in the camps, including tense confrontations and backroom maneuverings, but the fact that the soldiers and police didn't start shooting each other, or at the crowds at Edsa, tells us progress has been made toward professionalizing the military. We have to continue this process if we are to get the point where we can depend on the soldiers, without reservations, to defend the country rather than despots and dictators.

Then there were the powerbrokers (they exist, and continue to exist even in the strongest democracies) wheeling and dealing even as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was being sworn in as the new President. But the powerbrokers seem to have learned to work within the constitutional framework. The still unconfirmed story going around is that Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who enjoys immense popularity, was offered the presidency but that he, ever the staunch constitutionalist, declined. Macapagal must remember that she was not the people's choice but that Filipinos will defend her presidency again on a matter of principle: the Constitution says she should hold that post, at least for as long as she does not betray the public trust.

Edsa 2 is baffling because it began as a series of citizens' direct action that crescendoed into an uprising, followed by a coup of sorts within the military and the police and culminating with a ruling from the Supreme Court declaring the presidency vacant. Strange as this political *halo-halo* may have been, it did reflect well on Filipinos as a people determined to use democratic processes.

Erap should be thankful he lives in a democracy, where graceful exits are still possible. If we lived in a wild, wild West environment like Erap's movies, he would have been driven out by mobs storming Malacañang or, worse, finished off by his own bodyguards. All which would have only led to never-ending cycles of violence and internecine conflicts.

No doubt, many Filipinos remain unsatisfied, even coopted. We really didn't need to go through all these months of gloom and doom. A politician with a conscience, with a sense of shame, would have resigned with the mere whiff of a scandal. Not so with Erap, who refused, to very end, to resign but that's just as well since we can now say he was deposed. Undoubtedly he will continue to use our democratic institutions and his team of psychic lawyers to block legal proceedings against him or, worse, to overthrow the existing government.

The thieves and buffoons are still in government but that's all the more reason to make sure democracy works in our courts, in Congress, in every government agency and every voting precinct so that we can oust the scoundrels without having to take to the streets. Next time we troop to Edsa, it should be to celebrate with just cause. Sorry about that last phrase, but I do miss the trials and the gobbledygook. And since we're back to the topic of a trial, I'd like to think the next time we party at Edsa, it will be to celebrate Erap's indictment.

* * *

Comments can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Erap's inability permanent and irredeemable

THERE seems to be a growing excitement about two documents which were issued by former President Estrada last Jan. 20. I am not sure which document came first, but in my view it does not really matter.

One document is a brief letter to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. It says: "By virtue of the provisions of Section 11, Article VII of the Constitution, I am hereby transmitting this declaration that I am unable to exercise the powers and duties of my office. By operation of law and the Constitution, the Vice President shall be the Acting President."

What is the meaning of the inability to "exercise the powers" of which Section 11, Article VII speaks? It should be remembered that the 1986 Constitutional Commission patterned the provision after an amendment in the US Federal Constitution which was intended to deal with situations when the president, because of his physical or mental condition, might be temporarily unable to govern. This, too, is the intention of the Philippine provision—to govern a situation of temporary disability. Can it therefore apply to Estrada's current inability to govern?

When Estrada boarded that barge which brought him across the Pasig, it was obvious that he was neither physically nor mentally disabled. Neither did he appear inebriated. He looked healthy and even had time to pause and commune emotionally with his San Juan constituency. He was not a VII, 11 case. His inability to govern was rather due to the fact that he had been stripped of power by the sovereign people supported by the military, the police and his Cabinet—the indispensable instruments of executive power. The inability imposed on him was not temporary but permanent and irredeemable.

That he recognized the factual situation is evident from the press release which he gave to media just before he boarded the barge. He said:

"At twelve o'clock noon today, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as President of the Republic of the Philippines. While along with many other legal minds of our country, I have strong and serious doubts about the legality and constitutionality of her proclamation as President, I do not wish to be a factor that will prevent the restoration of unity and order in our civil society.

"It is for this reason that I now leave Malacañang Palace, the seat of the presidency of this country, for the sake of peace and in order to begin the healing process of our nation. I leave the Palace of our people with gratitude for the opportunities given to me for service to our people. I will not shirk from any future challenges that may come ahead in the same service of our country.

"I call on all my supporters and followers to join me in the promotion of a constructive national spirit of reconciliation and solidarity."

By the language of this press release, he recognized the permanency of his departure from office. There is nothing temporary about the language. The fact that he entertained doubts about the legality of President Macapagal's oath-taking does not dim his recognition of its permanent character. It only reveals either his inability or his refusal to look the new political reality in the face.

But how explain the letter to the Senate president? I can only surmise that it represented either an initial view in early Jan. 20 later superseded by his press release, or it was an afterthought following the press release. But whether an initial idea or a late afterthought, it has no constitutional validity because the needed factual basis does not exist.—**JOAQUIN G. BERNAS, S.J., Ateneo de Manila University**

Ecumenical spirit overlooked at Edsa

THE WORLD celebrates the organized and spontaneous participation of the Filipino people which successfully brought down the Estrada administration and the beginning of the Macapagal presidency.

I feel it important though to express my disappointment and embarrassment about one issue in particular. The many prayers offered during the liturgies and speeches in Edsa did not reflect the ecumenical, inter-faith and multi-cultural composition of the people gathered at Edsa. I did not hear the Catholic Church leaders or President Macapagal mentioning in prayer the Filipinos who are Christian but not Catholic or the millions of Muslims and others whose faith is other than Christian.

The people who massed at the Edsa Shrine and those who joined similar rallies all over the country were gathered as a nation, as citizens. Muslims and indigenous communities, which suffered more than most from government neglect, repression and oppression, also participated in the People Power which toppled Estrada.

I was within five meters of the Moro Christian People's Alliance group on Edsa last week. How many Muslim *imams* were asked to offer prayers and lead the people in prayer? What about the bishops and leaders of other churches?

This was also the practice in Congress during the impeachment hearings. The official prayers opening the sessions all seemed to address the God of the Christians.

Learning to be inclusive is a very vital issue for all of us in this new millennium. If we are to work together to create what President Macapagal mentioned in her inaugural speech, a "new politics of party programs and process of dialogue with the people," we need to make ourselves more aware of the multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-class character of the Filipino people and our important contribution to the world community. I applaud the promotion of a new politics which hopefully will express the genuine needs and rights of the people, and "of an institutional process of dialogue with our citizenry."

We all have many lessons to learn. This is a new beginning and opportunity to put these important goals into practice in our families, churches, schools, workplaces and government.—**SR. MARY GRENOUGH, MM, Maryknoll Sisters, UP Post Office Box 235, 1104 Diliman, Quezon City**

LETTERS

One family at Edsa

FIFTEEN years ago my husband and I brought along three of our children, then 14, 11 and 6 years old, to the site of the People Power Revolution in Edsa. Being so young at that time, they must have thought the exercise was one of those family picnics.

Little did we know that we would walk again on the same highway, but this time with them leading the way. One of our children is now married with a two-and-a-half-year-old son and we have added a fourth child, now 10. All of them together with their friends, trooped to the Edsa Shrine, spirit filled and united in purpose to express disgust over the 11 senators who concealed the truth in the impeachment trial and to call for the resignation of Joseph Estrada.

Belonging to the Bukas Palad and Hangad choirs, they participated and sang in the daily Masses. They stayed on past midnight and until victory day on Jan. 20. We encouraged them to actively participate in the rallies while we prayed for their safety. Our grandson, Mickey, young as he is, chanted "Erap resign!" with his thumbs down. Our 10-year-old daughter Lauren along with her friends in the neighborhood painted slogans which they hanged outside their homes. We also brought her to the rally so that she will be part of history.

Today, our presence in the rallies was to continue to fight for the future of our children and grandchildren and all the youth who stood shoulder to shoulder in the mammoth crowd. While they were obviously having fun and enjoying the company of their *barkada*, we saw in each face determination, willingness to sacrifice, courage and hope.

The euphoria may still linger for days but lest we forget, as parents and elders we should take our roles seriously by leading by example, in our workplaces and in our relationships with the less deprived and poor people. The Philippines belongs to our youth.—**LOUIE AND NELL LAUDICO, co-chair, Parish Youth Council, Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City**

No reconciliation without justice

WE have hailed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ascension to the presidency. Now let us watch her like a hawk.

Among Erap's inaugural pledges, the one that came to haunt him most was the one about "*walang kumpare, walang kaibigan*." He made a mockery of his presidency and turned it into a feeding trough for mistresses, in-laws, favored entrepreneurs and members of Congress.

The phrase uttered Saturday that we must remind Macapagal of again and again, is "No reconciliation without justice." (It was actually Sen. Raul Roco who said it, but he spoke in behalf of the United Opposition, so we can regard it as Macapagal's own.) It is much more meaningful than Macapagal's bland "national agenda" or "healing process." Indeed, the nation cannot heal, unless the new leadership confronts the sleaze and foulness exposed during the impeachment trial.

When shall we open the second envelope? What do we do with the mansions and kickback from *jueteng*? Shall we demand restitution and the forfeiture of wealth acquired from stock market fraud and kept in secret bank accounts? Will Atong Ang, Jaime Dichaves, Lucio Co and Mark Jimenez fade into obscurity for a while then reemerge triumphant with new patrons after the May elections? Will Estelito Mendoza remain free to practice his obscene brand of law? How do we prove that Emma Lim and Clarissa Ocampo did not testify in vain? How do we make the healing process real for victims of the bomb blasts and mass arrests?

Reconciliation without justice is complicity in the crime. We have just gotten rid of another corrupt President. Let's not make a habit of it.—**J.S. ONG, 13 San Mateo, Barrio Capitolyo, Pasig City**

A humbling experience

I AM deeply honored by your newspaper's plaudit as "Filipino of the Year 2000" in your Jan. 13 and 14, 2001 editions. Yet, the acclamation of being "a living Filipino who made the most positive impact this year on the life of the nation" became a humbling experience in the light of the other Sunday's gospel on the Wedding at Cana.

My reflections on both matters instilled in me a deeper sense of mission to "do whatever the Lord tells me to do"—in the pursuit of truth, justice, equity and democracy. This is also one of the many inspiring lessons I learned at the feet of my beloved father whom you likewise honored, and for which I am even more grateful.

Accept, therefore, my personal, as well as my family's most heartfelt gratitude to the INQUIRER staff. Given the enormity of the task imposed upon me by God and the Constitution as presiding officer of the impeachment trial, the INQUIRER's tribute would immeasurably inspire me to exercise said function the best way I can and ensure that democracy is at work in our country.

Thank you again, and may God continue to bless you. May your newspaper continue to live up to its commitment for balanced news and fearless views.—**HILARIO G. DAVIDE JR., chief justice, Supreme Court**

Broader perspective on events and people

I JUST want to comment on the very perceptive piece of Ma. Ceres Doyo about lawyers and journalists in the Jan. 11 issue of the INQUIRER. As a lawyer and a journalism graduate, I was particularly "hit" on both sides, so to speak, by the column. It is indeed interesting how the same event or circumstance provokes different sentiments from people and how our varied training in our respective fields lead us to adopt a particular approach to a problem.

Personally, I feel very fortunate to have a journalism background. This somehow "tempers" the rigors of my legal training. To a great extent, these two disciplines have allowed me to explore a broader approach to analyzing things and, more importantly, dealing with people.—**MONA DIMALANTA, mdimalan@umich.edu**

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Mideast talks in turmoil after West Bank slays

JERUSALEM—Middle East peacemaking was thrown into turmoil on Tuesday after Israel suspended negotiations with the Palestinians because of the kidnapping and murder of two Israelis in the West Bank.

"The prime minister (Ehud Barak) instructed the Israeli delegation in Taba to immediately return for consultations in Jerusalem," a statement from his office said, describing the killings as "horrendous."

"During those consultations there will be no contacts of any kind at the various levels (with the Palestinians)," the statement said.

The bodies of two Israeli civilians, initially said by a Palestinian official to be soldiers, were found shot dead near the northern West Bank town of Tulkarem.

Their deaths bring to 383 the number of people killed in a wave of bloodshed that has swept across the region for almost for months.

Israeli public television said two masked men had abducted and shot the two Tel Aviv restaurant owners after they left a restaurant in a village near Tulkarem along with an Arab Israeli who was now being questioned by Israel.

"The state of Israel, as in previous such murderous incidents, will apprehend the lowly murderers and exact punishment with the fullest severity," Barak's office said.

The killings have put on hold the marathon round of talks underway in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba since Sunday aimed at forging an elusive peace deal to end a half-century of Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority was swift to condemn the killings.

"Palestinian people, even if they feel rage at Israeli aggression which hurts Palestinians, condemn and reject any activities aimed at civilians on both sides, Israeli or Palestinian," a statement said, adding that the authority would open inquiry into who was responsible.

Even before the talks were suspended, both sides had cast doubt on the prospects for an early peace deal, even though time is running out ahead of a Feb. 6 election for prime minister that Barak is expected to lose to hardline opposition leader Ariel Sharon.

Also before the talks were suspended, the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, called in Gaza City for an end to the negotiations and for the Palestinian uprising to carry on.

Palestinian negotiators had earlier voiced concern that Barak's tough campaign stand on Jerusalem, the holy city at the heart of the conflict, could torpedo the talks, although progress had been made in some areas.

Opposing views over Jerusalem led to the failure of the Camp David summit in July, and Sharon's visit to a disputed holy site there on Sept. 28 sparked the current wave of violence in the Palestinian territories. *AFP*

5 protesters burn selves in Tiananmen

BEIJING—Police ringed Tiananmen Square with checkpoints on Wednesday, trying to head off threatened protests by the outlawed Falun Gong sect a day after five members set themselves on fire in China's symbolic heart.

The fiery protest left one woman dead, injured the other four and signaled a dangerous turn in the intensifying 18-month-old standoff between the spiritual movement and the communist government.

In response, Beijing police imposed the tightest security in the square in years, marring Wednesday's start of the lunar new year, China's biggest public holiday. Hundreds of uniformed police and plainclothes security officers, their walkie-talkies crackling in the cold winter air, patrolled the vast plaza and its immediate surroundings.

At pedestrian underpasses and crosswalks leading to the square, police checked identification papers, searched bags, made people turn out their pockets and open their coats and jackets, and looked down their sleeves, apparently to see whether they were hiding anything inside.

To test whether people were affiliated with the sect, police made some repeat the phrase "Falun Gong is an evil cult" or made them denounce Li Hongzhi, the group's US-based founder, asking: "Is Li Hongzhi a good or bad egg?"

The inspections weeded out some sect members, while a few others still managed to protest. A man climbed atop a mound of shoveled snow inside the square and held up a banner before police, rushing at him from three sides, knocked him over. One officer pressed a knee into the protester's body, pinning him to the ground until a van drove up.

"Falun Dafa is good," another man shouted from inside a police van, using an alternative name for the group. Another man in his mid-30s who held up a red banner also was quickly spirited away, a witness said.

Despite the few flashes of protest, the intense security enforced calm on the snow-brushed square. Families, couples and groups of visitors strolled and snapped photographs. The scene was a marked contrast to last lunar new year, when police kicked and pummeled protesters to quash scattered outbursts of defiance in a scene of violence and chaos since repeated on major public holidays.

Falun Gong attracted millions of followers in the 1990s with its slow-motion exercise and New Age philosophy that believers say promote health, good citizenship and supernatural powers.

Practitioners have waged a sustained campaign of civil disobedience in Tiananmen ever since the government banned the group in July 1999, accusing it of misleading followers, causing deaths and threatening Communist Party rule.

Tuesday's attempted group suicide appeared to mar the largely peaceful image of the sect's campaign. The five, soaked with gasoline, set themselves on fire, according to the government's Xinhua News Agency and a camera crew from the US-based television network CNN, which witnessed the protest. *AP*

MAKING sure they'd be ready next time, Chinese policemen carry fire extinguishers in Tiananmen Square in Beijing Jan. 24, a day after five people set fire to themselves in a dramatic protest against suppression. REUTERS

Bush decision on abortion funds inflames EU

NORRKOEPING, Sweden—The European Union on Tuesday slammed US President George Bush's decision to bar overseas funding for groups that perform or advocate abortion, calling it a setback for women's rights.

"It's a step backwards," EU Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou said during a press conference in the Swedish town of Norrkoeping, where EU social affairs ministers held an informal meeting.

"Why is it so easy to undo what we have earned during the last years, to change in one day the policies concerning women rights," she asked.

"The European Union can't influence Bush, but we can express our disappointment," she added.

On his first working day in office as new president on Monday, Bush reimposed a ban on the use of US federal funds for overseas groups that perform or advocate abortions.

"It is my conviction that taxpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion, either here or abroad," Bush said in his executive order.

The ban was originally introduced by another Republican president, Ronald Reagan, in 1984 and maintained by George Bush senior, but was reversed by Democratic president Bill Clinton in 1993.

Swedish Gender Equality Minister Margareta Winberg said she would ask Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson to raise the issue at the next EU-US summit. No date has been fixed for that meeting, but it is due to be held before the Swedish presidency concludes in June.

The EU reaction came as social affairs ministers of the 15-member states concluded a two-day informal meeting aimed at reducing inequality between men and women in Europe.

Measures suggested included the possible creation of a gender equality institute to narrow the wage gap and eliminate discrimination. The proposals will be presented to heads of state and government at an EU summit in Stockholm in March.

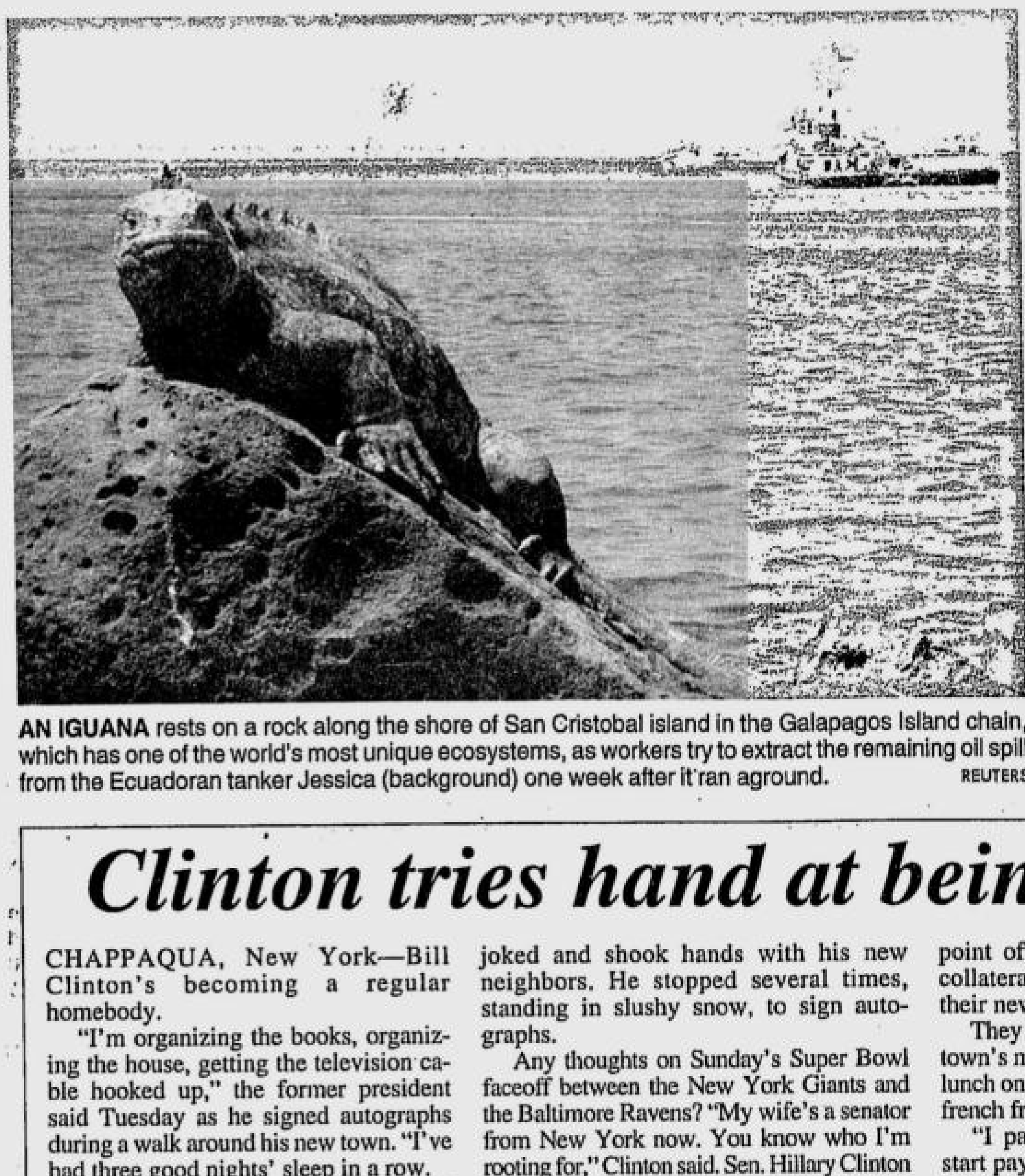
"A European gender institute could serve as an important tool," the Swedish EU presidency said in a statement.

One of the first tasks of such an institute would be to conduct a thorough assessment of the current discrepancies.

"Statistics on wages must be supplemented and improved in various respects to facilitate assessment of the wage situation at EU and national levels," the document said.

According to the Swedish presidency, the Norrkoeping meeting highlighted "the need to make pay differentials between women and men visible in order to establish an informative basis for various steps aimed at shrinking the wage gap."

The Swedish presidency suggested the European Union could set gender equality goals similar to the employment targets set in Lisbon in March 2000, when member states agreed to raise female employment from 51 to 60 percent by 2010. *AFP*



AN IGUANA rests on a rock along the shore of San Cristobal island in the Galapagos Island chain, which has one of the world's most unique ecosystems, as workers try to extract the remaining oil spill from the Ecuadoran tanker Jessica (background) one week after it ran aground. REUTERS

State of emergency called in Galapagos

QUITO—Ecuadoran President Gustavo Noboa late Monday declared a state of emergency in the Galapagos Islands due to an oil spill threatening the world famous nature reserve.

In announcing the measure, presidential spokesperson Alfredo Negrete compared the disaster to an earthquake.

The Ecuadoran oil tanker Jessica ran aground in the area last week, releasing 600 tons of fuel oil over 1,200 sq. km of pristine sea off the islands.

The slick struck the small Galapagos island of Santa Fe around midday Monday, 45 km north of the spot off the island of San Cristobal where the Jessica first ran aground.

So far four pelicans had been found dead in the area where the oil slick hit the shore, Negrete said.

The Galapagos, a chain of islands in the Pacific some 1,000 km off the coast of Ecuador, is home to some 9,000 rare giant tortoises, for which the islands were named.

Ninety percent of the reptiles, 46 percent of the insects and about half the birds on the Galapagos are unique to the archipelago.

Earlier Monday, Ecuadoran Navy Commander Vice Admiral Fernando Donoso said the Navy had launched an investigation into whether the 27-year-old vessels had a license to deliver fuel to The Galapagos or had been properly maintained. *AFP*

Clinton tries hand at being an 'ordinary guy'

CHAPPAQUA, New York—Bill Clinton's becoming a regular homebody.

"I'm organizing the books, organizing the house, getting the television cable hooked up," the former president said Tuesday as he signed autographs during a walk around his new town. "I've had three good nights' sleep in a row.

"I'm like most Americans now; I glance at the paper in the morning, drink coffee," Clinton added.

In a walk around the suburb, Clinton joked and shook hands with his new neighbors. He stopped several times, standing in slushy snow, to sign autographs.

Any thoughts on Sunday's Super Bowl faceoff between the New York Giants and the Baltimore Ravens? "My wife's a senator from New York now. You know who I'm rooting for," Clinton said. Sen. Hillary Clinton had left for Washington earlier Tuesday.

Clinton was joined at his Chappaqua home by his friend Terry McAuliffe, a major Democratic fundraiser who at one point offered to put up $1.5 million in collateral for the Clintons' purchase of their new home.

They and another man strolled along the town's main shopping street and stopped to lunch on matzo ball soup, chicken souvlaki, french fries and Greek salad.

"I paid," McAuliffe said. "He could start paying now."

As they passed a bank, Clinton asked, "Where's the ATM?"

Clinton greeted a 5-year-old girl named Chelsea Hunt. "What a beautiful name that is," Clinton said.

On Tuesday night, Clinton, daughter Chelsea, and McAuliffe went to New York City for a performance of "Aida" at the Metropolitan Opera House. Clinton was given a standing ovation.

At intermission a reporter asked the former president how it felt to be an "ordinary" man.

"It feels pretty good," he said. "I never thought I was anything but an ordinary man." *AP*

White racist to plead guilty to Fil-Am's slay

LOS ANGELES—White supremacist Buford O. Furrow Jr. has agreed to plead guilty to federal hate-crime charges in the killing of a Filipino-American postman and a shooting spree at a Jewish community center, a spokesperson for the US Attorney said.

"Buford Furrow is expected to be in court tomorrow morning to plead guilty," spokesperson Thom Mrozek said Tuesday night.

He would not provide details of the plea agreement because it had not yet been filed with the court. But sources close to the case said Furrow would plead to all 16 counts in the indictment against him.

The sources said Furrow has agreed to spend the rest of his life in prison without possibility of parole as part of his plea bargain with the government.

Prosecutors had said they would seek the death penalty against Furrow if he went to trial. His public defenders negotiated the life-saving plea agreement and depicted him as psychotic.

The lawyers said they were prepared to mount a mental-illness defense if the government insisted on a trial. Furrow has a history of being hospitalized for mental problems.

Furrow was charged with killing letter carrier Joseph Ileto on Aug. 10, 1999, hours after he allegedly wounded three boys, a teenage girl and a woman at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in the San Fernando Valley.

In pretrial legal filings, prosecutors detailed statements by Furrow in which he admitted the crimes and said they were motivated by racial hatred. *AP*

Judge interrogates Pinochet on abuses

SANTIAGO—A prosecutor said he would call for the trial of Chile's ex-dictator Augusto Pinochet "in the next few hours," after a landmark interrogation Tuesday into the retired general's role in human rights abuses at the start of his 17-year rule.

"This is a historic day and it is especially emotional and incredible for the people who filed the first suit three years ago that the dictator has been placed under the court and has had to make a statement," said prosecuting attorney Eduardo Contreras.

In the long-awaited interrogation Judge Juan Guzman had been expected to focus on Pinochet's alleged role in the "Caravan of Death" squad's October 1973 summary executions of 75 presumed opponents of Pinochet shortly, a month after the coup in which Pinochet rose to power.

Guzman spent "just minutes" talking to the ailing general in Tuesday's "very brief" meeting, according to Guillermo Garin, a spokesperson for the ex-strongman, although he was at the family home for two hours.

"It wasn't hours, just minutes," he told reporters. *AFP*

PRYCE PLANS, INC.

FOUNDERS' CUP 2000

CHAMPIONS

Excellence can be attained if you risk more than others think it is safe, care more than others think it is wise, dream more than others think is practical and expect more than others think is possible.

This best describes the Founders' Cup 2000 champions. They are a special breed of men and women who have captured the essential—the competitive spirit to end up as the winners in the most prestigious sales drive of Pryce Plans, Inc. Inspite of the crisis that hit the country last year, they never gave up. They were tougher, quicker and smarter than the rest. When everyone else said it cannot be done, they harnessed their hidden competitive reserves towards salesmanship par excellence.

These are the same qualities which came naturally to the founders of Pryce Plans, Inc. and propelled it to become one of the more stable companies in the pre-need industry. Tonight in formal awarding ceremonies, the company will honor the Founders' Cup 2000 champions for putting no limits to their dreams, keeping the faith alive and reaching not just for the expected but for the extraordinary.

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MSD JAVELOSA, GERARDO J.

ASD JAVELOSA, CHARLES E.

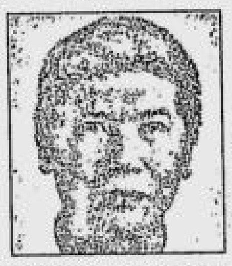
FC JAVELOSA, KRISTI MARIE E.

CHAMPIONS

ASSOCIATE SALES DIRECTORS

MANAGING SALES DIRECTOR

VASQUEZ, ROSEMARY M.


VASQUEZ, ANTONIO G.

FEBRERO, ELNORA O.

PERONO, JOCELYN H.

LERIAS, EVANSUENDA C.

BOLO, JOSEPH D.

COSCULLUELA, SEBASTIAN

SALES MANAGERS

VASQUEZ, ALVIN M.

VARELA, CHRISTINE L.

MINA, JOSEFINA C.

UY, MA. LIBERTINE V.

MOLINA, SABINA M.

PERONO, RENE B.

FEBRERO, MA. CHRISTINA O.

MT FEBRERO, MA. FEBE O.

SARMIENTO LEONARDO Y.

ESCANO, MARICHU Y.

LERIAS, ORLY NIÑO C.

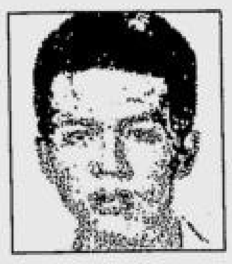
CHU, MARY LYNE D.

FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS

NARCISO, JUANA A.

UY, MANUEL B.

FEBRERO, VICTOR P.

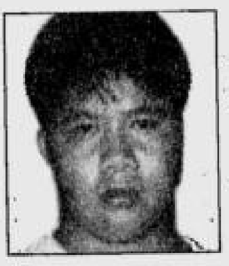

VASQUEZ, ALVIN M.

ESCANO, MARTIN PAUL T.

CHU, MARY LYNE D.

CACAO, EDITHA B.

SARMIENTO, TERESITA G.


MINA, ARNOLD D.

MOLINA, ROLLY P.

YOUNG, JOEMARIE G.

PERONO, RENE B.

GAMBOA, GERARD B.

VELEZ, MA. LUZ E.

CASIPLE, HENRY R. JR.

ALOTAYA, REBECCA R.

Other Financial Consultants are **LERIAS, VIOLAINE C.; BONGAROS, CAMAD M.;** and **BERICO, MA. CELESTE A.**

STAR AWARDEES

Financial Consultants Level- Diamond Three Star: Mansueta Parrenas, **Diamond Two Star:** Go, Joy Ann W., Bolo, Julius D., De Leon, Manolita A., Alvarez, Harry L., Juliano, Bernardo A. **Diamond One Star:** Losloso, Catalino Jr. C., Naval, Ma. July Ruby G. Yadao, Sylvia T., Lague, Evelyn B., Millare, Nestor L., De Ocampo, Rene A., Nitura, Eliza Joy O., **Gold Three Star:** Caluglug, Nolita L. **Gold Two Star:** Daral, Nieves L., Llanes, Ramon P. **Gold One Star:** Ang, Eduardo R., Holaso Arlene L., Isberto, Teresita M., Salazar Rosalina S. **Silver Three Star:** Pilapil, Edwin D. **Silver Two Star:** Claudette J. Erames, Sumague Mayla M., Chan, Charlene L., Cabuguason, Josephine F. **Silver One Star:** Jimenez, Jan Desi Albert B., Varela, Mariano G., Recuelo, Mary Jean P., Brioso, Rommel Allan B., Gaza, Alberto V., **Sales Managers Level- Diamond One Star:** Lim, Sonia Y., Rocamora, Rodolfo B. (MT), Millare, Ma. Grace G.B., **Gold Three Star:** Casiple, Raquel B., **Gold One Star:** Ang, Consolacion D.,Chiu, Fe T., Lague, Genaro A., **Silver Three Star:** Bolo, Ursulina L., **Silver Two Star:** Sangalang, Eymard A., Isberto, Salvador L., **Silver One Star:** Juliano, Amelia C.,Burgos, Ma. Luisa A., Jimenez, Scarlet B., Li, Lilia, C., De Ocampo, Cesar A., Obediencia, Rosario B., **Associate Sales Directors Level- Diamond Two Star:** Esmena, Editha D., Chu, Rosalina D.,**Diamond One Star:** Sarmiento, Caroline A., **Gold Two Star:** Ortega, Renato M. (SSM), Crosa, Marvin C., **Silver One Star:** De Ocampo, Daria A., **Managing Sales Directors Level- Diamond One Star:** Lerias, Pelagio M, Jr., **Gold One Star:** Araceli, Legaspi N., **Silver One Star:** Carmen,Alfredo A., Reyes, Dwight F., **Deputy First Vice Presidents/ Senior Managing Sales Directors Level – Diamond One Star:** Rivera, Abelardo M., Juliano, Mapet A., Buni, Antonio S., De La Cruz, Jaime R., Espinili, Raymundo M., **Gold One Star:** Maratas, Loreto G.

PRYCE PLANS, INC.

Going strong at 13

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER YEAR

We salute the Founders' Cup Champions 2000 for they lived up to the dictum that "no conquest is so important as victory over self." We are proud to be associated with such men and women of good quality and who give esteem to their profession. It is now time for them to reap the rewards and claim their rightful place in the Hall of Achievers.

Today, Pryce Plans is celebrating its 13th anniversary. When we started the company, times were hard and yet many people were ready to stake their future with us. The road then seemed long and distant. Armed with attributes like loyalty, sincerity, enthusiasm, determination and tenacity, they persevered and now have become successful marketing associates and managers of the company.

We look forward to another challenging and successful year.

SALVADOR P. ESCAÑO
Chairman

PRIDE, HOPE AND HUMILITY

The late American president Calvin Coolidge once said, " No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." Truly, a meaningful statement.

With this line of thought, we again honor our special achievers for the Founders' Cup 2000. They have proven once more that the rewards in business go to the man who does extraordinary things and endured adversities to meet their targets. They have dared to act and were never afraid of its consequences.

Pryce Plans was founded on the same spirit thirteen years ago. Through the vision of one man the company has subscribed to prudent financial management principles, a must especially during fluctuating economic times. Our senior management team, formidable experts in their field, are avowed team players. They are the guardians of the vision.

We give a lot of value to our planholders. We have ensured that our financial services are designed to be investment friendly, accessible and responsive to their needs. Whether it be education, personal and corporate pension plans all our planholders are assured of a secure and bright future for their families. It is this goal that lies in the heart of Pryce Plans.

A company only survives if it has a backbone of people who believe in the vision and are willing to buckle down to hard work everyday for years and years. Pryce Plans is fortunate to have A-1 employees many of whom have stayed and grown with the company. Today we honor these employees who like our marketing associates are being honored for giving so much to the company.

As we celebrate our 13th anniversary, we look back with pride at our achievements, with hope on what lies ahead and with absolute humility for the opportunities that have been gifted to us.

MARIO M. SILOS
President

THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM OF PRYCE PLANS, INC.

Standing (from left) SVP-Marketing Rodrigo B. Jumao-as, AVP-Personnel and Administration Mario M. Suba, President Mario M. Silos, VP-Personnel and Administration Ernesto M. Reyes, Jr. and SVP-Operations Gerry A. Vargas; seated (from left) AVP-Account Management and Services Department Wivina A. Lacerna, VP-Finance Audrey M.B. Gallardo and AVP-Accounting Brenda R. Panganiban.

QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Pryce Plans, Inc. offers financial services focused on bringing accessible education and pension plan products that are responsive to the varying needs of the Filipino family and corporate entities. As one of the top pre-need companies for the past decade, PPI's financial strength and stability ensures growth and protection for all planholders' investments. Being at the forefront of the prestigious multi-billion Pryce conglomerate, Pryce Plans in 2001 is steadfast in its commitment for a bright and secure future for the Filipino family and the nation.

Visions of Wisdom and Success

VOWS is a traditional educational plan with a package of benefits made affordable to accommodate the various financial capacity of the clients and made available on easy installment terms. It is a secure plan as it traditionally guarantees payment of actual tuition fees regardless of its cost in the future.

The Pryce VOWS educational plan is an investment mechanism that guarantees to turn a vision into a reality. Each of the three VOWS plan types brings a solution that is responsive, flexible and yet secure. The plan types are innovatively designed to address your child's future educational needs.

Pryce Pension Plan

Pryce Plans, Inc. provides its clients the freedom to live out the rest of their retirement years in style, peace and prosperity. Pryce Pension Plan makes it possible for retirees to live a life of dignity that is well-planned and well-funded.

With its three settlement options, insurance coverages and guaranteed cash values, the Pryce pension plan offers maximum returns to one's investments.

Pryce Corporate Pension Plan

The Pryce Corporate Pension Plan is a program designed to assist clients in setting up a funding program aimed to satisfy their financial needs and goals. The PCPP can complement any existing retirement program, provident funds and similar investment schemes of a corporation or any group.

The program maximizes the corporation's return of investment, it achieves future financial goal at the least cost and prepares for an essential need of providing retirement benefits for retiring employees as mandated by law.

LOYAL EMPLOYEES

When the company was established in 1988, there were only a handful of employees. The number has ballooned to more than 300 regular employees nationwide, many of whom had stayed on in the company for years. The founders have time and again recognized these loyal employees whose dedication to their work contributed tremendously to the long-term success of the company.

These employees come from diverse backgrounds with a rich mixture of beliefs and temperaments providing a stimulating work environment. All of them possess innumerable talents and skills from which spring forth work that is both polished and disciplined. They are firm believers in earning their keep through an honest day's work. The management of Pryce Plans salutes them for their steadfast loyalty and for keeping the vision of the company burning.

Ten-Year Service Awardees

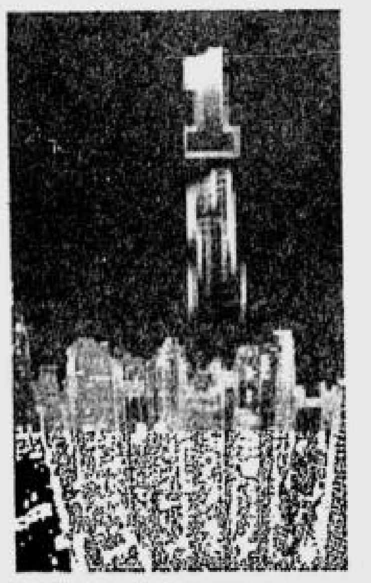
Head Office
1. Wivina Lacerna
2. Audrey Gallardo
3. Gerry Thomas
4. Anna Maria Santos

Central/Eastern Visayas
Theophilus Pangilinan

Northern Mindanao
1. Naomi Ruth Roble
2. Renely Lapure

3. Herminia Timbol
4. Ma. Olivette Enderes
5. Jose Tuason, Jr.
6. Josie Ann Chacon
7. Rizalina Castino

Southern Mindanao
1. Vicenta Saren
2. Teresita Manzo
3. Demodines Doyohim
4. Jermie Sungcad



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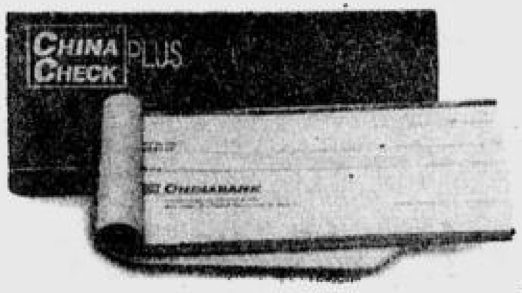

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Bacolod thanksgiving draws 2,000 parishioners

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Close to 2,000 people flocked to the Bacolod public plaza yesterday afternoon to attend a thanksgiving Mass for the peaceful transition of power from ousted President Joseph Estrada to now President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday.

About 25 priests joined a concelebrated Mass officiated by Msgr. Eduardo Gumboc, Diocese of Bacolod chancellor secretary.

In his homily, Gumboc thanked all the participants in People Power II particularly in Negros Occidental because they contributed to the bloodless transfer of leadership.

He reminded those present in the Mass not to forget to thank the Lord for answering their prayers to peacefully remove President Estrada from office.

"Like in Edsa I, people should not get amnesia again and forget to be vigilant in the choice of their leaders," Gumboc said.

He reminded them not to vote for traditional politicians or "trapos" in the May elections because they do not have the interest of the people in their hearts.

Among the 25 priests present was Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich, a known human rights advocate who was one of the leaders of the anti-Estrada rallies in Negros Occidental.

Negros Occidental was one of the provinces that gathered the most people in the anti-Estrada rallies last week.

Bishop Vicente Navarra was the one who organized the thanksgiving Mass, but he was not here yesterday because he has to be in Manila to attend the meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

But he sent a message read by Gumboc during the Mass.

In his statement, Navarra urged the people to continue the Edsa revolution by being vigilant against graft and corruption in government, bribe-taking, cronyism and patronage politics.

While the immediate task of national reconciliation and unity lies before the Filipinos, he said "forgiveness and justice demand reparation and restitution."

"Reparation for what has been unjustly destroyed and restitution for what has been unjustly taken," said Navarra.

The bishop also said the public should start making intelligent choices as the May election approaches.

"Shall we again vote for the likes of the 11 shameless, self-seeking and disgusting senator judges of the impeachment trial? I warn the electorate to reject them as well as the political *trapos* of our cities and towns in Negros Occidental," he said.

Gloria urged: Never again declare war in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—A young girl who galvanized support for children evacuees at the height of the war in Central Mindanao asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to "refocus attention" on the evacuees now that the national crisis is over and to "please do not ever declare war in Mindanao."

Rosan Aliya "Iya" Agbon, 13, a freshman at the Albert Einstein School in Cotabato City and founder of Kids for Peace Foundation Inc. reminded Ms Macapagal in an open letter dated Jan. 22 that she met her at the Cotabato airport last year when Ms Macapagal was still social welfare secretary and Vice President.

"Now you are the President (occupying) the highest and most powerful position in the country. You are there in Malacañang through the power of the Filipino people, through a peaceful process."

"One of the lessons I remember from my religion classes before is that power can be used for the good of all; sadly, it can be abused as well. In the Kids for Peace' psychosocial program at the evacuation centers, we heard horror stories from the children. It made me think about the inhumanity that abuse of power can bring. No one can forget the chilling reality of the war in Mindanao. No one should forget what it meant to the innocent children, mostly younger than I am," Agbon wrote.

She said many children are still in the evacuation centers.

"I am not sure if a new President means renewed hope for them. Now that the crisis is over, maybe it is best to refocus attention on them again," she said, adding, "I, as a Mindanaoan and as a child peace advocate, agree with those who insist that the military solution did not and never will bring peace."

"I have witnessed child evacuees draw the different ammunition they have seen. You saw the pitiful sights in the evacuation centers. You saw the innocent victims of the war that once ravaged Mindanao. These are not images of peace."

Agbon said the new President seems to be an "advocate of peace."

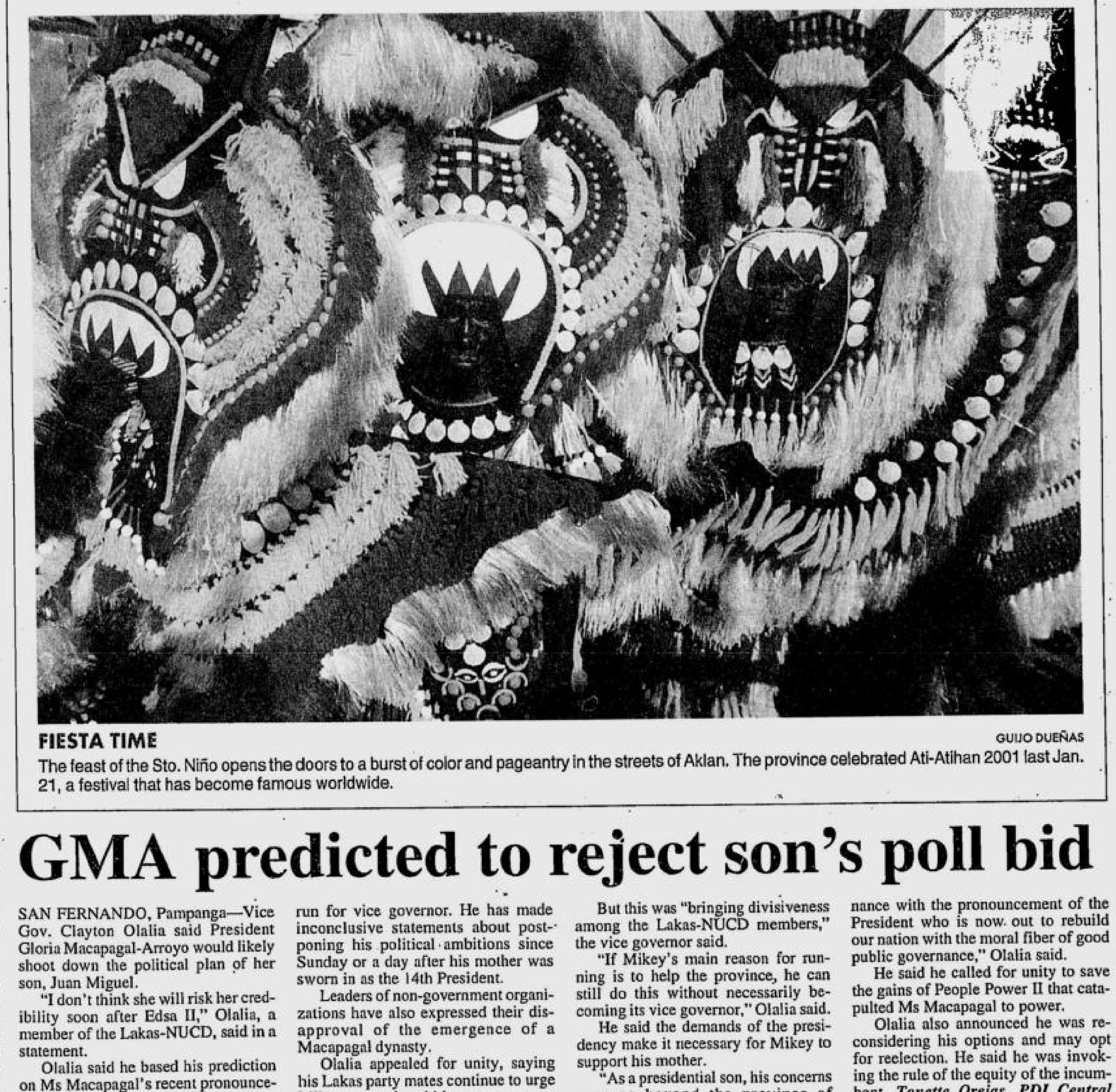
"You became a President through peaceful means. You are a mother yourself and I know that you feel (sympathy) for these children. It is my fervent hope then that your government will never resort to the military option. The child-evacuees have suffered enough. Please do not ever declare war in Mindanao," Agbon said.

In Cotabato City, Fr. Eliseo Mercado Jr., head of the Mindanao Peace Advocates Conference and the Mindanao Task Force set up immediately after Kompil II in early November, said Ms Macapagal should be reminded of her commitment to Mindanao.

Mercado's group handed Ms Macapagal a list of proposals from Mindanao, among them the declaration of a ceasefire and resumption of peace talks, demilitarization of Mindanao, return of evacuees to their villages, representation in the Cabinet and the rationalization of the functions of existing Mindanao offices.

Joji Ilagan-Bian, chair of the Mindanao Business Council, said the national crisis that eventually led to the ouster of Estrada showed that "despite our differences in goals and objectives, we can be all united for a common agenda for Mindanao. This was our strength and we knew how to use it to the fullest."

Bian said there is "still so much to be done to rebuild our Mindanao," among them the rehabilitation of war-ravaged areas and the "devastated economy." ***Carolyn Arguillas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



FIESTA TIME

GUIJO DUEÑAS

The feast of the Sto. Niño opens the doors to a burst of color and pageantry in the streets of Aklan. The province celebrated Ati-Atihan 2001 last Jan. 21, a festival that has become famous worldwide.

GMA predicted to reject son's poll bid

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Vice Gov. Clayton Olalia said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would likely shoot down the political plan of her son, Juan Miguel.

"I don't think she will risk her credibility soon after Edsa II," Olalia, a member of the Lakas-NUCD, said in a statement.

Olalia said he based his prediction on Ms Macapagal's recent pronouncements.

Juan Miguel or Mikey planned to run for vice governor. He has made inconclusive statements about postponing his political ambitions since Sunday or a day after his mother was sworn in as the 14th President.

Leaders of non-government organizations have also expressed their disapproval of the emergence of a Macapagal dynasty.

Olalia appealed for unity, saying his Lakas party mates continue to urge Mikey to run in a bid to muster more support for Pampanga.

But this was "bringing divisiveness among the Lakas-NUCD members," the vice governor said.

"If Mikey's main reason for running is to help the province, he can still do this without necessarily becoming its vice governor," Olalia said.

He said the demands of the presidency make it necessary for Mikey to support his mother.

"As a presidential son, his concerns now go beyond the province of Pampanga and he should act in consonance with the pronouncement of the President who is now out to rebuild our nation with the moral fiber of good public governance," Olalia said.

He said he called for unity to save the gains of People Power II that catapulted Ms Macapagal to power.

Olalia also announced he was reconsidering his options and may opt for reelection. He said he was invoking the rule of the equity of the incumbent. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

NPAs compete with Army docs in medical missions

BAGUIO CITY—Not only military doctors conduct medical missions in remote villages in the country.

Residents and officials of Kapangan, Benguet, 80 kilometers from here, said even New People's Army rebels hold such missions and provide acupuncture sessions to poor residents in the town's remote villages.

Kapangan Mayor Eugenio Leon, in a media forum last week, also denied reports that NPA members operating in their town are harassing agriculture technicians who were sent by the regional Department of Agriculture.

"We admit that there are NPA rebels in our area, but they are not out to harass our agricultural technicians. They are there to conduct acupuncture activities and not atrocities," Leon said.

Chief Insp. Eusebio Cayap, Kapangan police director, said their reports indicated that residents appreciate the NPA's gesture of extending medical assistance, especially to poor communities.

Cayap said NPA rebels in the province use these acupuncture sessions and medical missions to entice villagers to join the communist movement.

He said NPA rebels hold the acupuncture sessions once a month for residents seeking medical attention.

Police officials in Kapangan said they were not sure if the NPA has trained medical practitioners.

Acupuncture is a therapeutic practice of Chinese origin using needles.

Cayap said the Kapangan police have also asked civic groups to provide free medical and dental services to villagers in the area. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Colonel Rabonsa: A human rights advocate in PSG

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Col. Glenn Rabonsa, the new chief of the elite Presidential Security Group, can be considered a rarity in the military service: He is a veteran Army officer who was recognized for his human rights advocacy.

Rabonsa, while acknowledged as responsible for the capture and surrender of at least two rebel leaders in Panay, was also the recipient of a Human Rights Advocacy pin in 1999.

The pin was awarded to Rabonsa by Commission of Human Rights chief Aurora Reciña in a ceremony at the headquarters of the 7th Infantry Battalion in Sitio Liniagan, Barangay Tacas, Maasin, Iloilo, 29 kilometers west of Iloilo City.

Cris Montaño, CHR information officer in Western Visayas, said Rabonsa was given the honor because he incorporated human rights advocacy in Army Literacy Programs (ALPS) that he initiated while he was 7th IB chief.

Non-government human rights groups in Iloilo have also no adverse record on Rabonsa when he headed the 7th IB from 1997 to 1999, a check by the INQUIRER showed.

As head of the PSG, Rabonsa will now take on the important task of ensuring the safety of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her immediate family.

A native of San Nicolas, Pangasinan, Rabonsa is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1970, together with the likes of Brig. Gen. Julius Javier, now commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division based in Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz.

As 7th IB chief, Rabonsa played a central role in the capture of top communist rebels and in raids that led to the seizure of high-powered firearms in communist lairs in Iloilo province.

Rabonsa was 7th IB chief from March 1997 to August 1999.

Among those which the government had "neutralized" during Rabonsa's 7th IB stint was rebel leader Eddie Callanga alias "Ka Elmo," then district secretary of the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian Army–Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) operating in southern Iloilo and part of Antique province.

Callanga was captured in 1999 in a raid in Miag-ao, Iloilo, according to military records. He sought and was given amnesty. He is now an active member of Balikatan, a cooperative of rebel returnees involved in livelihood projects in his hometown of Leon, 28 km southwest of Iloilo.

It was also during Rabonsa's leadership when the 7th IB negotiated the surrender of Jose Nueva alias "Ka Joy," the logistics officer of the RPA-ABB in northern Iloilo, in July 1999. Upon his surrender, Nueva also gave up to the government 17 firearms of different calibers.

Nueva applied for amnesty on Sept. 6, 1999 and was placed in the custody of the 7th IB Army unit then based in Camp Monteclaro in Miag-ao town, some 40 kilometers from Iloilo City.

The 7th IB was transferred to Mindanao last year at the height of the government offensive against Moro rebels.

Before he was named to the PSG post, Rabonsa was commanding officer of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade based in Nueva Ecija.

Other key positions Rabonsa held prior to heading the 7th IB were that of military attaché to Bangladesh and chief of Task Force Cordillera.

Rabonsa, who is married to Josie Capito by whom he has three children, is among those who have been considered for promotion to general before President Joseph Estrada was forced out of office on Saturday by People Power II.

Vice gov's arrest kept under wraps

LEGAZPI CITY—Police arrested a top official of Masbate province who is a staunch critic of deposed President Joseph Estrada and five others the day before President Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn into office on Saturday.

The arrest was done quietly and kept from the prying eyes of media.

Arrested were Masbate Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa, a known anti-Estrada advocate despite his blood relations with Estrada ally Rep. Emilio Espinosa; provincial treasurer Luis Manlapaz; retired budget officer Emma Vasquez; provincial planning and development officer Ramon Marcaida III; accountant Glenda Candidato and clerk Romeo Saniano.

The six are facing charges over P400,000 in provincial government funds paid to Saniano.

They were simultaneously arrested around 11:30 a.m. Friday in Masbate City. The Sandiganbayan issued the arrest warrants.

The arrested officials and employees were taken to the provincial police office pending payment of bail, according to police reports.

The six were charged after the provincial government paid P400,000 in 1999 to Saniano for his services. The payment was approved by the five officials, but was questioned in court.

Vasquez retired early last year but had been named respondent before she left government service.

Efforts to get the side of Espinosa were futile. Reliable capitol sources confirmed that the arrest was kept under wraps.

"Only very few know that they have been arrested," a source said.

"We heard about the arrest but we were not able to confirm it. Even the city police declined to release the information to us," said another source, a local newspaperman. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Student plays with grenade, dies in blast

DAVAO CITY—A college student was killed while his classmate was seriously wounded when a grenade they were reportedly playing with exploded inside an apartment in Juna Subdivision here Tuesday noon.

Police identified the fatality as Rommel de los Santos, 23, who was holding the grenade when it exploded. His classmate, Dante Tagabuan, is still fighting for his life at the Davao Doctors Hospital here.

Chief Insp. Ildefonso Asentista, chief of the city's Special Anti-Terrorism Unit (Satu), immediately ruled out the involvement of terrorists or rebels in the explosion.

Asentista said police are still investigating how the boys got hold of the grenade. He said the victims were drinking liquor with four other friends in the apartment before the explosion.

According to the victim's drinking buddies, De los Santos, a third year engineering student at the University of Mindanao, was very upset when he learned that another student was courting a girl whom he was pursuing.

Asentista said De los Santos may have accidentally pulled off the pin of the grenade after some of his friends had left. ***Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

We salute the Filipino men and women who believed in the spirit of EDSA.

Our sincerest gratitude to:

Jaime Cardinal Sin
Former President Cory Aquino
Former President Fidel Ramos
Chief Justice Hilario Davide
Former Speaker of the House Manny Villar
The Witnesses
The Public and Private Prosecutors
The 10 Senator-Judges
The AFP & PNP
The Cause-Oriented and Religious Groups
The Business Community
The Youth

-- and all those who, by the grace of God, made it all possible.

We give our full support to the new government under the leadership of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and we call on our countrymen to rally behind her programs to fight poverty, to elevate moral standards in our society, to reform our political system and lead by example.

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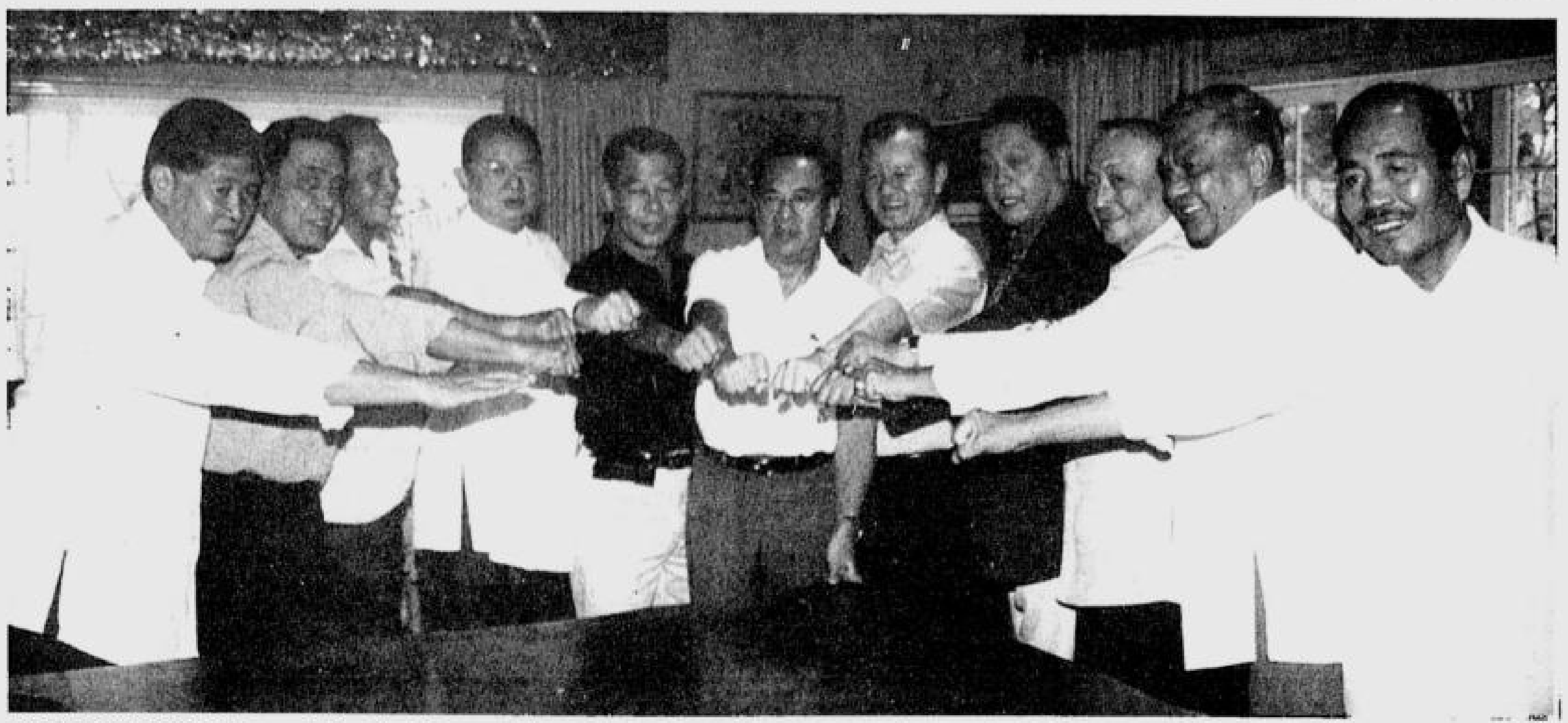
Word war of generals



MEETING OF MINDS: From left, retired Generals Manuel Oxales and Rolando Escalona; retired Commodore Mike Aparri, Boy Saycon, Espinosa, Chavit Singson, Peping Cojuangco, retired generals Pete Navarro, Angel Okol Jr., Johnny Aquias and Joey Solis. MANDY NAVASERO

MANDY NAVASERO

LT. GEN. EDGARDO ESPINOSA: Beaten to the draw?

(From page A1)

would have done so at their original schedule: Saturday, Jan. 20.

Espinosa's story was confirmed by former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat.

Abat said it was possible that the AFP top brass had learned of their Jan. 20 schedule "because a lot of people knew it already."

"So when they (Mercado and Reyes) went to the Edsa Shrine, *nagkita-kita na lang kami,"* Abat said. "The withdrawal was advanced by one day."

Behind the scenes

The first of the retired generals to initiate the call for the uniformed services to advise Mr. Estrada to resign, Abat yesterday related details of what went on behind the scenes before Mercado and Reyes made their dramatic turnaround at the Edsa Shrine last Jan. 19.

"Things were all set for Saturday when the crowd at Edsa was expected to swell further," Abat said in a phone interview. "We expected that the withdrawal of support by certain units in the AFP and PNP would create a bandwagon."

On the side of the PNP, Abat said, he had designated his son-in-law, Senior Supt. Jaime Caringal, to network with officers based in Camp Crame.

"I was always sending him to Camp Crame to organize there," Abat said.

On the AFP, Abat worked closely with Espinosa.

Espinosa, who was relieved last February as Southcom commander by Mr. Estrada following an alleged dispute with Estrada's friend, the Zamboanga City-based Lepeng Wee, did the networking not only with the Marine Corps, but also the Northern and Southern Luzon commands.

"Espinosa was supposed to come out and lead the Marines on Saturday," Abat said.

Ready on Dec. 18

Cojuangco said Espinosa's group was already ready to come out and withdraw support for Estrada on Dec. 18.

"But something came up, and it had to be postponed," said the brother of former President Corazon Aquino.

After his relief, Espinosa refused to accept any assignment for four months. He accepted the post commandant of the Joint Command and Staff College (JCSC), which is a posting for a major general. Espinosa said it was a demotion.

"The soldiers felt that they were being used in Mindanao, that was a general sentiment," Espinosa said.

However, he clarified there was no organized move in the military.

"These were various groupings from the north and south who were being linked together. But those in the south did not know those in the north," he said.

A member of Espinosa's staff at the JCSC said the general was approached by members of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo) sometime in November to help them with their plans to force Estrada to resign.

Col. Ernie Amboy said the JCSC currently had 34 students, all full colonels. He said the officers first discussed the Estrada presidency and tried to come up with strategies.

"We are all taught strategic thinking," he said.

The students rallied behind Espinosa.

Top brass

While Abat's associates were doing their own networking, Abat and his fellow retired generals focused on the top brass, particularly Reyes.

Abat himself had about three meetings with Reyes and sent the AFP chief of staff two letters, the last of which was signed on behalf of Abat's colleagues of Class 1951 of the Philippine Military Academy.

"The day (Thursday) before Reyes and his group withdrew their support, we (PMA Class 1951) sent him a memorandum reiterating our position that such a move is constitutional as the 1987 Constitution mandates the AFP to be the protector of the people and the state," Abat said.

Gazmin, Alvez

Two of Reyes' classmates in PMA Class 1966 were also involved in the effort to convince Reyes of the soundness of such undertaking.

They are Voltaire Gazmin, former Army commanding general, and Leo Alvez, former commander of the Presidential Security Group during the term of President Fidel Ramos. Both are now retired.

"They were telling General Reyes to seriously consider the withdrawal of support as the position of the President had already become untenable," Abat said.

It was last November that Abat, as chair of the Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers (Forces), came out to demand the resignation of then President Estrada and at the same time urged the AFP and PNP to "assist" the President into realizing that this is a "heroic" act.

Former President Ramos, himself a retired general, joined Forces.

As more retired generals followed Abat's example, Estrada and Mercado tried to downplay their importance, saying they no longer command men and therefore should not be taken seriously.

After Forces issued its manifesto last November, Mercado asked the Department of Justice to see if Abat violated any laws. Abat was later cleared of any liability.

These two developments only served to alienate the retired officers as well as those in active service as the latter took up to the former for guidance and wisdom.

The civilian authorities also underestimated the deep camaraderie within the Armed Forces, which embrace both active and retired soldiers, Abat noted.

Threats

During the phone interview, Abat revealed that he and his family had been the subject of harassment.

In jest, Abat said: "Don't worry, we can talk freely now on this phone because it is no longer tapped."

Abat said that last year, his 22-year-old grandson Joseph Tito Abat Jr. began receiving threatening calls from a man who introduced himself only as "Colonel."

"The caller was telling Tito that they know where we live, what vehicles we use. They asked him to stop me, his grandfather, from making noises," Abat said.

As a result, the young Abat temporarily stopped attending classes at the Ateneo de Manila University. He is the son of Abat's deceased son, 2nd Lt. Tito Abat who died in action in 1979, one year after he graduated from the PMA.

Abat's son-in-law, Caringal, was also not spared. From being the chief of staff of the PNP Region 4 Office, Caringal was transferred to Ifugao upon orders of PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson.

The transfer did not prevent Caringal, a member of PMA Class 1976, from organizing officers at Camp Crame.

The Abat residence in San Carlos, Pangasinan, was also the subject of overt surveillance by car-riding armed men.

"They were openly asking our neighbors if I'm here," Abat said. "There were always four men and they used red and gray cars."

One time, a helicopter hovered closely to the house for no particular reason.

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Reyes: 'We did not do it for credit'

(From page A1)

Forces was intact all along and that its field commanders remained loyal to the chain of command.

"The chief of staff was sure that the chain of command was intact," Dagudag said.

"Putting it simply, despite many reports we got that units would act unilaterally, none of these units moved," Dagudag said.

"There were only speculations about military units supposedly making unilateral action."

Dagudag said that had there been units that were supposed to undertake action outside of the chain of command "they should have moved."

"Espinosa is disgruntled," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, himself a former Marine general and former AFP chief of staff.

Biazon was referring to the relief of Espinosa as the commander of the Southern Command in Mindanao last February.

"Espinosa has an ax to grind against Estrada and Reyes because he was relieved from the Southcom," Biazon said even as he warned against the danger of allowing the military to play a pivotal role in resolving political issues.

Espinosa denied that he was disgruntled.

Text messages power protests

OVERNIGHT, the message went out:

B AT CTIBANK B4 9. ERAP LAWYRS PLANNING 2WDRAW $30M. WE HV 2STOP DIS.

Scores of people who received the text message on their cellular phones heeded the call and gathered Tuesday morning at a Citibank branch where ousted President Joseph Estrada is accused of having deposited millions of dollars in bribes.

There, and at another nearby bank, they vowed to block any attempt by Estrada, widely called Erap, or his lawyers to access the alleged funds.

Throughout the past tumultuous week, notices of anti-Estrada protests, along with the latest news and rumors, were spread through text messages relayed from person to person over cell phones.

The massive protests led to Estrada's departure from the presidential palace on Saturday and the swearing-in of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the country's new leader.

Smart Communications Inc., the Philippines' largest mobile phone company, said the number of text messages sent over its network last week averaged 70 million per day, up from the usual 45 million to 50 million. The company needed to increase its network capacity near the demonstrations, spokeswoman Jo Clemente said.

Globe Telecom Inc., Smart's main rival, declined to release similar figures. Globe's text message traffic is likely to have been higher than Smart's because of its larger number of digital cell phone subscribers.

Even before the protests, the Philippines was the world's capital of text messages, largely because of their low cost compared to normal telephone calls or computer e-mails. Each day, more text messages are sent in the Philippines than in all of Europe, according to company officials.

But "texting" also has been blamed for the rapid spread of unfounded rumors and deliberate deceptions.

On Monday, thousands of people received messages of a supposed impending military revolt against Macapagal's new government, forcing officials to issue a series of denials on Tuesday.

Text messaging is a feature of digital cell phones using the GSM standard, the dominant system in much of Asia and Europe. The service allows mobile phone subscribers to send short written messages to each other, usually within seconds.

Last week's protests were triggered by the collapse of Estrada's impeachment trial, where he faced charges of bribery, graft, betrayal of public trust and violating the Constitution. *AP*

Muslim solon is DPWH chief

(From page A1)

President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned of the "buccaneers" and "swashbucklers" angling for appointments.

He said he was apprehensive that Ms Macapagal might "wind up being surrounded by unscrupulous people who would take advantage of her presidency" as they did of the presidency of the ousted Joseph Estrada.

Pimentel noted that within hours of Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency last weekend, he saw people "crowding" the Linden Suites where she was billeted.

Some of them, he said, were "of questionable character."

"I think (they) are badgering the President for positions," Pimentel told reporters at the weekly Cuidad Fernandina forum in Greenhills. He did not name names.

He said it was good for Ms Macapagal to be "warned of the pitfalls that await her if she's not careful in the choice of her circle of friends, and . . . of people whom she can trust."

Asked what his advice to the President would be, Pimentel said: "Just to be careful in choosing the people with whom she would be dealing publicly and privately."

Not final

Palace insiders told the INQUIRER that some of the appointments might not be final.

They cited the case of retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita, whose name was earlier floated as national security adviser.

The sources said Ermita might take the post of Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado when the latter runs for a seat in the Senate.

Renato Corona, earlier named as Ms Macapagal's chief of staff and spokesperson, may be appointed solicitor general, the sources said.

In a radio interview yesterday, Corona said he might give up his post of spokesperson when the new press secretary is announced.

VAL HANDUMON

REP. SIMEON DATUMANONG: Mindanaoans are happy.

"Maybe it will be right for me to offer to relinquish my position once there is (a press secretary). It (will be) hard to have two people talking," he said.

The President is expected to announce the name of her press secretary at her lunch and first briefing with the Malacañang press corps today.

Corona also said most of the vacant posts would be filled up in 10 days.

He said that despite complaints, acting PNP chief Leandro Mendoza would likely be named in a permanent capacity.

"From what I understand, he is going to be permanent PNP chief," Corona said of Mendoza. "I have not heard of anyone (else) being considered for the post."

Deserving

Datumanong, 65, a former governor and three-term congressman, is a 1959 law graduate of the University of the Philippines.

He served as minister of Muslim affairs and cultural communities after a stint as commissioner and chair of the Regional Autonomous Government in Central Mindanao, the forerunner of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

THE GORDONS, Richard and Kate, are a happy couple as the President congratulates the former after his oath-taking as tourism secretary on Wednesday. VAL HANDUMON

"He deserves (to be public works secretary) because even if he is not an engineer, he has not been involved in controversy in all of his public life," said Izrael Muhammad, a resident of Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

Datu Khariz Baraguir, Maguindanao provincial secretary and a high school classmate of Datumanong's, said that "on the basis of trust and administrative ability," he was the President's "best choice for the Cabinet among today's Muslim leaders."

Even Prof. Moner Bajunaid, chair of the technical working group of the defunct peace panel of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, welcomed Datumanong's appointment.

"We appreciate the goodwill move," Bajunaid said. "But more than anything else, we need a clear pronouncement from the President about her policy vis-à-vis the peace talks (with the MILF)."

Evelyn Carias, chair of the Khadidja Moro Women's alliance, said Datumanong's performance in cleaning up the Department of Public Works and Highways would be closely watched.

At his first press briefing, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said the choice of Datumanong could help improve peace and order in Mindanao.

"Simeon Datumanong was appointed public works (secretary), can you imagine that? Here is a Muslim congressman who's been appointed to a choice position, a very important position . . . That is a very strong message to Mindanao," Gordon said.

He said the message was clearly directed to Moro rebels to return to the fold of the law.

But Carias said Datumanong and the other appointees should set in motion the "people's agenda" of national industrialization and social equity.

She said that while it was important to have a Moro representative in the Cabinet, the criteria for nationalist, pro-people, morally upright and just officials should not be sacrificed.

"What is important is that (Cabinet appointees) should work for genuine structural development in the government," Carias said.

Shocked

Acting NBI Director Carlos Caabay expressed "shock" and "disappointment" over Malacañang's decision to name Wycoco, a three-star police general, to head the bureau.

Caabay, an appointee of Estrada's, said "it was a bit painful" to learn of the appointment only yesterday morning.

He said that a number of NBI personnel also resented Wycoco's appointment, and that they were planning to mount a protest action today.

Still, he said, "I promise to support my successor."

In separate interviews, a number of top NBI officials admitted that Wycoco's appointment would demoralize personnel.

They said an "insider" should head the NBI "so as not to break the chain of command."

But a division chief who spoke on condition of anonymity said many NBI officials were not rallying behind Caabay.

"We would want someone from within our ranks to be our head. Malacañang should uphold the rule of seniority being observed by the agency. But this stand does not mean that we're supporting Caabay," the official said.

Wycoco took his oath of office before Justice Secretary Hernando Perez at 4:40 p.m. yesterday.

After the ceremony, he promised to use his 33-year experience in "law and order service" to further improve the "reputation" and "efficiency" of the NBI.

Wycoco said his priority would be the reopening of the investigation of the so-called "Erap mansions" and the still unsolved disappearance of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

"I'm now a retired policeman. I'm no longer connected with the PNP," said Wycoco, who retired from the police service on Monday. "I will do my job to the best of my abilities."

Involved

Alcordo, the new energy secretary, is a former executive of the William, Gothong and Aboitiz Shipping Lines and current president and chief executive officer of the publicly listed East Asia Power Resources Corp.

But his involvement in power-related industries is seen as a hindrance to his confirmation of the Commission on Appointments as it violates Section 8 of the Department of Energy charter.

That provision states: "No officer, external auditor, accountant, or legal counsel of any private company or enterprises primarily engaged in the energy industry shall be eligible for appointment as secretary within two years from his retirement, resignation, or separation therefrom."

Alcordo is also a board member of the Chemical Industries of the Philippines Inc. He is a 1959 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, with an undergraduate background in chemical engineering.

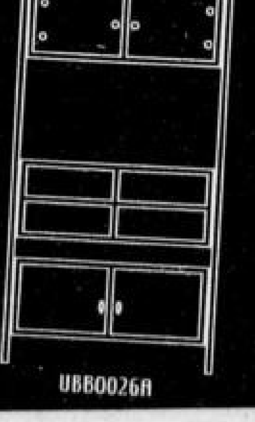
Garcia and Dumon, GSIS president and chair, are both Cebuanos.

Garcia is a lawyer. His father is Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, a member of the executive committee of Promdi, one of the parties comprising the United Opposition.

He is also an ally of Promdi chair Emilio "Lito" Osmeña, a former governor.

Dumon heads the Aksyon Demokratiko, another member party of the United Opposition.

He is a certified public accountant and current chair of the Cebu Uniting for Sustainable Water, a multi-sectoral group that advocates water conservation and protection of the watershed. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Christine A. Gaylican in Manila; Nagiel B. Banacia, PDI Visayas Bureau; Nash B. Maulana, Joselle Badilla and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



Need a new cabinet Madam President?

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6 Lacson men yield top PNP positions

JEWEL CANSON

REY ACOP

ROMEO ACOP

FRANCISCO ZUBIA

VICTOR BATAC

(From page A1)

"They are magnanimous—*mga tunay na lalaki* (they are real men)," he said. "*Sayang sila kung walang* (It would be a pity if they are not given) assignments. They are assets to the PNP."

Director Hermogenes Ebdane has been named PAOCTF chief to fill the "leadership vacuum" and to list the sophisticated communications equipment and high-powered firearms supposedly missing from the elite group's base.

Emerging from his first command conference at Camp Crame yesterday, Mendoza confirmed that an "inventory of resources and logistics" was being done at the PAOCTF.

According to reports reaching Mendoza's office, sophisticated devices used for wiretapping, bugging, monitoring and surveillance operations had been taken out of the PAOCTF by agents loyal to Lacson, who quit the PNP top post on Sunday.

Some high-powered firearms were allegedly also missing.

"We will know what items are missing because an accounting is being done at the PAOCTF by Director Ebdane," Mendoza told reporters at Camp Crame.

'One PNP'

Unlike Lacson, who concurrently headed the PNP and the PAOCTF, Mendoza refused to take on the leadership of the elite anticrime unit.

He even called for its disbandment to make way for a unified police force.

"We don't need a camp within the camp or an elite group. What we need is one PNP," he said.

Mendoza said Ebdane was named head of PAOCTF because there was a "vacuum in leadership as a result of General Lacson's resignation."

Until his relief, Zubia, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, was temporary head of the PAOCTF.

Ebdane, a 1970 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, is a former head of human resources and doctrines development in the PNP.

He also served as chief of the Western Police District Command and the National Capital Region Police Office.

He was among the police officers put in the "freezer" or on "floating status" after he actively supported former Speaker Jose de Venecia's unsuccessful run for the presidency in the 1998 elections.

It was during Lacson's term that Ebdane was "plucked out" of the freezer and given a high position at Camp Crame.

'No trouble'

Mendoza said the six relieved officials had assured him that they would not cause trouble.

"We would not be a problem to you," he quoted him as saying.

Mendoza sounded defensive when asked about comments that he was a "coddler" of criminal syndicates, including kidnap gangs.

He said that he had a "very clean record" and that there were no pending administrative and criminal cases against him.

Mendoza also expressed concern that the "disinformation" campaign against him might lead the public to lose confidence in the PNP.

He acknowledged that some groups did not want him to head the PNP, but said this was not unusual.

"Give me a chance to prove my worth. My clean record will speak for itself," Mendoza said.

Gloria asks George W to visit RP

(From page A1)

Powell, who would plan and coordinate any visit to the Philippines.

Bush said he called Ms Macapagal to tell her that he was "keenly aware of how important bilateral relations are" with the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal, a onetime classmate of former US President Bill Clinton at Georgetown University, replied: "Your country is very important to us. Our relationship is very important and I am looking forward to greater enhancement (of bilateral ties)."

Bush thanked Ms Macapagal for welcome she accorded to a US state department official.

Ralph Boyce, the US deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, paid Ms Macapagal a visit on Monday and pledged to continue the history of cooperation between Washington and Manila.

Impressed

In their conversation, the former Texas governor said he was also impressed by Ms Macapagal's background and was sure the petite, 53-year-old President would "do a fine job" as Asia's newest leader.

"I've been reading about you. I'm most impressed by your background," Bush said.

For her part, Ms Macapagal congratulated Bush for "winning 78 percent of all the counties and three-fourths of all the states."

"You know, we've both got our hands full," Bush told the former Vice President. "Set the right focus and, you know, spirit. I'm confident that we'll both do our jobs at home and work . . . to make the world peaceful."

It was Ms Macapagal, however, who pointed out to Bush that they had "many things in common, including being children of former presidents."

The new Philippine leader is the daughter of the late Diosdado Macapagal who was the President from 1961-65.

The US leader's father, George Bush, was elected to a four-year term in 1988.

Parallels

There are striking parallels, too, in their ascension to power.

Ms Macapagal was sworn in as the country's 14th President on Saturday, just a few hours before Bush took his oath of office.

Both leaders face the challenge of healing the wounds of division in their countries that preceded their takeover of the reins of government.

Ms Macapagal was installed as President in the aftermath of military-backed civilian uprising, dubbed "People Power II," that ousted Joseph Estrada.

Bush became the 43rd US president after a hotly contested election that split America.

Both their predecessors were saddled with sex scandals.

Bilateral ties between the two allies cooled after the Philippine Senate ended Washington's lease contract on two major bases north of Manila in 1992, ending nearly half a century of American military presence.

Relations, however, have since normalized. In 1999, the Philippines ratified the controversial Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States, paving the way for resumption of large-scale joint military exercises. ***With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters***

Estrada lawyers question order freezing assets

(From page A1)

Perez said the Tax Reform Act of 1997 gave the BIR commissioner the power to place "under constructive distraint" the property of Estrada.

Perez said courts were also empowered to issue freeze orders on assets of certain individuals. But this required a recommendation from the solicitor general.

"But in the case of the BIR, even without a judge's order, the commissioner can order the freeze," he said.

A lawyer of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had said that Estrada's dollar deposits in Citibank or any other bank could not be frozen even by a court order.

A source close to Estrada yesterday denied that the former President had tried to withdraw $3 million from his account with the Citibank.

The source said Estrada just asked one of his men to "check out" the amount at the foreign bank. "The money was not withdrawn," he said.

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) was not satisfied with the explanation of Estrada's aide.

VACC chair Dante Jimenez disclosed yesterday that $3.9 million in Estrada's alleged ill-gotten wealth had been spirited out of the country.

Jimenez said the money was sent to Los Angeles, California via Hong Kong on a Cathay Pacific flight at 5 p.m. the other day.

He said a "very reliable" informant told the VACC that $3.9 million in bank notes was withdrawn from local banks by the former President's agents. The notes were sent abroad in a parcel.

7 groups

VACC and six other non-government organizations yesterday formed the Alliance to Follow Up Ill-Gotten Wealth (AFIL) to track down illegally obtained fortunes of the deposed President and his cronies.

The AFIL will also monitor plunder and other corruption cases filed by various organizations against Estrada and his cohorts.

Other convenors of the AFIL were lawyers Roger Rayala of Graft-Free Philippines Inc., Dennis Funa of Clamor, George Ramos of the Kongreso ng Manggagawa sa Pablik Sektor, Maria Corazon Sison of the National Council of Women of the Philippines, Homobono Adaza of the Mindanao Alliance, Baron Cervantes of the Aklas Pilipino and lawyer Ernesto Francisco.

VACC and Clamor were among the first groups to file plunder and graft charges against the former President before the Office of the Ombudsman.

"We are highly apprehensive that if the citizens are not vigilant enough in this struggle, the Estrada ill-gotten wealth will surely become another unsolved case similar to that of the Marcoses," Jimenez said.

The aide of Estrada denied the VACC allegation that $3.9 million in deposits of the ousted President was brought out of the country Tuesday on a Cathay Pacific flight to Los Angeles.

"Have pity on the former President. They are accusing them of things that are not true," the source said.

The source said that the BIR freeze order would cover the assets acquired by Estrada before he became President.

He explained that the President and his clan were already wealthy before he assumed the presidency. "He is being crucified, ever since," the source said.

Jinggoy

San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada maintained that there was no ill-gotten wealth to freeze in the first place.

"My father opened his Citibank account when he was still mayor of San Juan. That account has been inactive since then," he said.

In the House of Representatives, Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said Estrada could not invoke the Foreign Currency Deposit Act in refusing to reveal his dollar deposits.

Moreno said the law was not meant to protect the kind of deposits of Estrada.

"The whole gamut of the former President's unexplained wealth in foreign currency deposits is not the kind of deposits encouraged by Republic Act 6426 and given incentives and protection thereunder," Moreno said in a statement.

Moreno and other members of the House prosecution panel in the impeachment trial had presented evidence showing that Estrada opened accounts with Citibank using the alias Jose Velarde.

Moreno also said that if indiscriminately applied, RA 6426 "would not only conceal and abet wrongdoing of public officials. It also contradicts and undermines all Philippine criminal laws and statutes against graft and corruption."

Moreno noted that in the case of Salvacion vs Central Bank (G.R. No. 94723. Aug. 21, 1997), the Supreme Court ruled that RA 6425 could not be availed of by foreign transients in keeping their accounts confidential.

The high tribunal said that foreign currency depository units could be the subject of attachment.

Summonses

Mayor Estrada said his father's defense lawyers during the impeachment trial would most probably represent the ousted President, former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito and himself in the graft and plunder charges filed against them before the Ombudsman.

Fortun said Estrada was meeting with his legal team on Tuesday in his residence on Polk Street in Greenhills, San Juan, when various summonses from the Ombudsman arrived.

Rep. Joker Arroyo, who was among the prosecutors in the impeachment trial, said they were already collating the evidence they had gathered for that trial and would turn it over to the appropriate government agency.

This will include new evidence uncovered during the trial including testimony by key witnesses that Estrada opened a bank account under the name Jose Velarde, and allegedly profited from the country's worst insider-trading scandal.

Fortun said that in their meeting with Estrada, "his composure was good" after a despondent weekend when he reportedly said he would rather die than be ousted.

Estrada "said that in the end, people will see the truth," Fortun recalled. "His spirits were high that (the corruption cases) would all be dismissed," the lawyer added. ***With reports from AFP, Donna S. Cueto, Jerome Aning, Rocky Nazareno, Cathy Yamsuan and Agnes E. Donato***

Nene advises Gloria . . .

(From page A1)

try might be used as a "rallying point" by his followers to destabilize the newly installed administration.

"If he (Mr. Estrada) doesn't leave, and even if he doesn't actually lead a mobilization to confront the new administration his followers could very well take up where he (left) . . . and create problems for the administration," he said in a forum.

Senators Teofisto Guingona and Raul Roco are amenable to shipping Estrada out of the country as long as the government pursues the criminal charges against him.

"The Department of Justice can lift the hold-departure order on Estrada 'for the greater national interest,'" Guingona said.

Asked what would happen to the plunder cases against Estrada if he left the country, Pimentel said, "I suppose there could be some arrangements. The new government will have to work that out."

But he said he had no specific proposals on the matter though.

"All I'm saying is that if Estrada is exiled to another country, he will be less of a problem to the nation," Pimentel said.

Pimentel admitted that it was he who advised Estrada hours before the ousted President left Malacañang on Jan. 19 to leave the country.

But Estrada did not want to leave because he wanted to face the charges against him, according to Pimentel.

Estrada is not leaving the country and is prepared to face all the charges filed against him, according to a former Palace official.

"I'm not leaving. I'm staying here. I'll face all those charges and prove my innocence," the former Palace official close to Estrada quoted him as saying.

Will live and die here

Mr. Estrada felt that the hold-departure order issued by the Department of Justice was "unnecessary" as he had no intention of leaving the country.

"I was born here. I will live here. I will die here," Mr. Estrada reportedly said.

Estrada could have sought asylum in other countries or negotiated for this when people were massing at Edsa to oust him, but he did not do this because he felt that he was innocent and would be proven so later on, the source said.

Other presidents faced with a similar situation might have tried to get out of the country, the source quoted the ousted President as saying.

Estrada has holed himself up in his Polk Street residence in San Juan, shunning the media.

Cooling-off period

In the Senate, Guingona said Estrada could be allowed to leave the country temporarily if only to allow things in the country to cool off.

But he stressed that the plunder cases against Estrada must be "taken into account."

"It can be a temporary cooling-off period since the cases are still in the preliminary stage," Guingona said. "He can be allowed to leave provided he comes back."

Roco said Mr. Estrada could leave provided this was in accordance with Philippine laws.

"Anyone can voluntarily go into self-exile. But Philippine laws should still apply to him," Roco told reporters.

But Sen. Francisco Tatad said the issue of exile was for Estrada to decide.

"Estrada never suggested that those creating problems for him before Edsa II should go into exile. Why should anyone now suggest that he should go into exile?" Tatad said.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines also wants the new administration to pursue criminal charges against Estrada.

"I believe that the clamor for him to be criminally charged has a strong basis. People do not want a repetition of the Marcos case, where no legal punishment was imposed. The popular clamor is, therefore, understandable," said Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the CBCP.

Quevedo said that in an ideal situation, "the Church would certainly wish that all stolen goods and unexplained wealth be returned and legal punishment given."

Moral forgiveness

The country's 80 bishops, who are in Manila for the National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal, are one in extending moral forgiveness to Estrada "depending on his owning responsibility for his sins, his contrition and firm resolve to amend his life."

"These are the usual conditions for the forgiveness given by God through the Church. This forgiveness does not take away the punishment necessary," Quevedo said.

The Catholic bishops, priests, nuns and lay people are meeting at the San Carlos Seminary in Guadalupe, Makati, to discuss the Church's political and socio-moral policies after successfully helping assemble people at Edsa that forced Estrada from power.

Attending to mother

The source said Estrada was busy attending to his mother whose health was failing.

The ousted President, who in his youth was considered the family black sheep, is very close to his mother, Doña Mary, who is turning 91 this year.

"Right now, my priority is my mother and my family," the source quoted the President as saying.

Sometimes, Mr. Estrada himself feeds his mom.

"He is making up for lost time," the former Palace official said.

He said Doña Mary was very much affected by the events that led to her son's ouster.

She had been affected even before, during the impeachment hearings.

Another source, who has been with the ousted President since he was still the Vice President, told the INQUIRER that Estrada would be ready to face the media in about three or four weeks.

"But as of now, he is still licking his wounds," he said.

The second source said Estrada learned that Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado had been with the "other side" a week before the People Power II.

The source said that what hurt the former President more than anything else was that his close friends had betrayed him.

Relentless bashing of 'Notorious 11' leaves Kit fuming

(From page A1)

pointed out even promised a healing and uniting presidency, that if the vindictiveness continued, her administration would have difficulty securing the support of the opposition in Congress.

"I never wanted to bring out this point but I believe we have reached the limits of our tolerance of the arrogance and self-righteousness of these people. If they want cooperation, we will give it to them but if they continue to be arrogant, they will not get it from Tatad," he said.

Even as Tatad was fuming in the Senate, the party list group Akbayan launched a campaign against Tatad and the rest of the senators who they tagged the "Notorious 11."

Akbayan members set up four "freedom walls" at the foot of the Edsa Shrine and encouraged passersby to post their messages for the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the envelope containing documents that would supposedly prove that ousted President Joseph Estrada had accumulated wealth way beyond his legal income.

A message for Tatad posted on the freedom wall read: "*Dapat malambing ang mga Bicolano, hindi balimbing* (Bicolanos should be affectionate, not two-faced)."

What particularly angered Tatad yesterday were statements supposedly made by some government officials who were calling for the filing of charges against the 11 senators that voted not to open the bank documents.

Tatad said he and his family continued to be harassed and humiliated just because he voted "in accordance with my reading of the Constitution."

Tatad said the 11 senators were being persecuted just because they held a view different from that of the anti-Estrada forces.

He turned the tables on some of his co-senators who, he said, were part of the plan to oust Estrada.

"They pretended to be impartial judges but they were part of the plan to bring down Estrada," he said.

Tatad said that the early adjournments and the lack of quorum in the Senate and the House indicate that legislators "do not seem willing to work on priority issues."

"They are distracted by current developments," he said.

Tatad's complaint notwithstanding, militant groups vowed to continue to hound him and the rest of the "Notorious 11."

"What we are trying to achieve with this activity is the replacement of traditional politics, or *trapo*, with genuine, alternative politics, or what we call *guapo* (handsome)," explained Vic Rodriguez, Akbayan-Youth spokesperson.

Lawyer Francis Pangilinan said the anti-trapo campaign should serve as the warning to other politicians who put their personal interests above the interest of the people.

"Until now, there are still many such politicians who are in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The people must move to get rid of them. What we need is a politics of results, not a politics of promises," Pangilinan said.

Printed at the top of the Akbayan freedom walls boards were the names of the 11 senators and the call "*Huwag iboto ang taksil na senador* (Don't vote for senator-traitors)."

Tessie, Miriam

Curiously, the names of Senators Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Miriam Defensor-Santiago were allotted a board of their own, while the nine others had to share the remaining two boards. And Oreta and Santiago's boards were the first to be filled with messages, which ranged from the sarcastic to the viciously cruel.

Most of the messages made reference to Oreta being the sister of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino, whose assassination sparked the first Edsa revolution in 1986.

"You didn't even think of Ninoy. You don't deserve the name Aquino," a comment said.

"*Magtago ka na. Hinahanap ka ng kaluluwa ni Ninoy* (You better hide. Ninoy's soul is looking for you)," another read.

Comments on Oreta's dancing after the 11 senators' vote prevailed were plenty.

"Dancing queen *ka talaga* (You're a real dancing queen)," "You should be working for a pubhouse."

Many also expressed disappointment that someone with a brilliant mind like Santiago could be "corrupted."

"You're a waste," a protester wrote.

The senator's intelligence also became a butt of most of the comments.

"*Hindi pagalingan sa English ang kailangan sa Senado* (The Senate is not about being a good English speaker)," one said.

"A result of Promil overdose," exclaimed another.

The protesters advised Senators Ramon Revilla and Vicente Sotto III to return to show business.

They told Sen. Robert Jaworski to go back to playing basketball. "*Bola na lang ang hawakan mo. Huwag ang Senado.* (Why don't you just hold a ball, not the Senate)."

Sen. Anna Dominique Coseteng earned differing observations on her fashion sense. While one urged her to "do fashion shows," another said she looks like "a sack of rice tied at the middle."

Silly as it may seem, a remark for Sen. Blas Ople read, "*Nakakahiya ka. Surname pa na naman ng classmate ko ang name mo* (You're a disgrace. My classmate's surname is even the same as your name)."

They called Sen. Gringo Honasan the "shame of the military," and Sen. John Osmeña the "shame of the gay community."

Messages for Sen. Juan Ponce-Enrile were more sober: "Have fear in God."

Ucap derby tonite

QUALITY and fast-paced encounters return at Mandaluyong Coliseum as the "3rd Ucap/Altuz 6-Cock Derby championship round starts at 6 tonight with more than 45 fights lined up.

Derby host is lawyer-sportsman Ram Lopez and sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug inc.

The frontrunners, who posted two victories each in last Tuesday's eliminations, are Biboy Enriquez (Firebird BM), Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master), Pete Rodriguez (Roadmaster Cobra Balbina), Pepito Ngo (Mr. Fatman), Joseph Sy (Momentum Feb. 6 Pasay), Pol Estrellado (Sagupaan PB San Pablo), R. Pamatmat (RFP Argem Coliseum Jan. 26-28) and Wakee Salud (Guts and Glory).

Meanwhile, the "El Grande 4-Cock Derby," a battle royale of Metro Manila's small-time and medium-scale cockers, follows immediately on Saturday, Jan. 27. Host is the El Grande Group of Pasay.

Submission of weights is tomorrow, Friday, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and interested parties may contact 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

Also slated is the "Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby" on Jan. 30, Feb. 1 and 3 (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) sponsored by Pagcor and Sagupaan Super Feeds. Derby host businessman Vic Yu confirmed the participation of more than 60 local and international cockfighting bigshots.

Roligon tilt up

THE FAMED roosters of the late great game fowl breeder Mamie Lacson of Bacolod City will prove their legendary fighting qualities again tonight when Mamie's son Joey Lacson leads the more than 50 entries in the Roligon Mega Cockpit's 11th Anniversary Derby featuring 75 matches.

Thousands of derby fans are expected to troop to the huge Parañaque landmark with the buy-one-take-one offer effective up to six in the evening.

Exciting pit action continues with the remaining elimination matches on Jan. 27 and 30 and on Feb. 1, 3 and 6.

Set to see action this evening are Boy Limson, Nono Mitra, Benjie Ledesma, Tee brothers, Bobby Seelin and Arnold Mendoza.

BATANG PINOY GAMES

NCR tankers shine

TYRONE Ng of Albay (right) edges Nasser Ngayon in the boys' 100-meter dash. Ng clocked a record 11.9 seconds. ROMY HOMILLADA

BY JUNE NAVARRO

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Manila revived its dominance in multi-event competitions as the Big City bets created a ripple in the pool at the start of swimming competitions in the Batang Pinoy National Championships at the San Luis RECS Village here.

Tanker Lambert Guiriba sparked Manila's climb as he snared the gold in the 11-12 years old boys' 50-meter freestyle in record-shattering fashion with a time of 26.57 seconds.

The 11-year-old Guiriba, a younger brother of one of last year's bemedalled athlete Ronald, smashed the old mark of 28.37 seconds set by Laguna's Jairus Agoncillo.

After he provided the spark, Gian Berino and Bea Del Mundo responded by ruling their respective events.

Berino clocked 37.38 seconds in the boys' six and under 50-meter freestyle, while Del Mundo capped the exploits of the Manileños with a winning effort in the girls 7-8 years old 50-meter freestyle.

Not to be outdone, Quezon City and Cebu Province also made their presence felt by bagging three golds each to launch its hunt for the overall title.

Laguna, the defending overall champion, captured only one of the 18 golds staked in the pool, an immense disparity in comparison to its 15-gold medal haul in swimming during its initial staging in Bacolod.

Blanca Austria salvaged some measure of pride for the pool champs after winning by a hair's breadth in the girls' 11-12 years old 200-meter individual medley. She finished with a time of two minutes and 43.35 seconds, less than a second ahead of Iloilo's Doreen Peronilla's 2:43.98 clocking.

A big letdown was Laguna's Banjo Borja, one of two most bemedalled athletes two years back, who relinquished his boys' 7-8 years old 50-meter freestyle diadem to Esa Linsag of Davao.

Still, the host continued to hold sway in the third day of competitions after convincing victories in cycling and athletics with 10-2-2 gold-silver-bronze medal tally, its last gold for the day coming from softball.

Bacolod ladies golf host

THE BACOLOD Golf and Country Club will host the 38th edition of the Southern Ladies Open golf tournament on Feb. 6-9.

The Southern Ladies, conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines in cooperation with the host venue, is the country's biggest women's amateur event next to the Philippine Ladies Open.

Heidi Chua, who claimed her biggest victory so far by topping the event last year, is expected to be back to defend her crown.

Sponsoring the tourney are the Philippine Sports Commission, DHL Philippines, Directories Philippines Corp., Mizuno, Hidden Spring and Bacolod Executive Inn as the official hotel.

Aside from the competition for the overall crown using the Modified Stableford system of scoring, there will be trophies at stake for the top three finishers in the four handicap classifications.

Hope

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BATANG Pinoy can really have the capacity to discover world talents. That's the good thing about it.

The bad thing—or is it the sad thing? —is, it can also be a breeding ground for dishonest athletes.

In short, this project has all the noble intentions in the world.

Starting the kids young.

Selecting potentials from the slew of winners.

Driving the non-teenagers inclined to a life of sports away from the dregs of society.

Batang Pinoy is even the best weapon in diverting our kids' attention from one of the nation's major ills today: drug addiction.

Nice, di ba?

But as I've always maintained, every tournament that is age-group in nature can be the subject of abuse. People with evil intentions can always find a way to spoil the party.

Birth certificates falsified. Kids taught to lie about their birthdays. Parents seen to condone cheating. Officials giving the imprimatur to twist the facts.

And so, in the ongoing Batang Pinoy Games in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, we can only hope. Hope that cheats had been effectively shooed away before and during the Games. I know that'd be impossible, almost, to achieve, knowing how crooks could be so creative in bending the rules.

The next move then—sigh—would be for us to hope that cheating is minimized. That's the least that we can think of. But even that is unconscionable. An aberration. You steal one peso or one million pesos, it makes no difference. Stealing doesn't specify an amount.

As you and I know, Batang Pinoy only involves kids 12 and below. A 13-year-old is not eligible.

Are there kids out there who are above 12 years old but are registered as 12-year-olds?

Nobody knows except the kids themselves. If not the kids, the kids' parents. Include officials who accompanied the kids.

The bottomline is, it's the adult who commits the sin. The kid is merely told to commit the sin. When the kid becomes an adult, he repeats the crime.

What a cycle. They have a word for that: vicious.

Pop extends deadline on Balingit

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

POP Cola last night extended until noon today the deadline it gave to Tanduay Gold to decide on its trade offer, dangling the rights over the returning 6-foot-9 Bonel Balingit and Wynne Arboleda.

Pop Cola manager Elmer Yanga said they are asking for just a first-round draft pick next year in exchange for Balingit and Arboleda, who didn't make the Panthers' active 12-man lineup.

Tanduay sources said they are still considering the offer although there are reports the team hesitated because Arboleda's salary might cause them to exceed the salary cap.

Arboleda's manager Danny Espiritu said the deal is almost done as he already tried to prepare talks with Tanduay.

Mobiline, which earlier tried to snag Balingit's services, gave up the hunt knowing that Tanduay already closed the deal, according to manager Frankie Lim.

Pop Cola, which made the offer two days ago, earlier gave Tanduay until 5 p.m. yesterday to decide but the Rhummasters asked for some more time.

Pop Cola owns the right-of-first-refusal over Balingit who last played for the Panthers before joining the Metropolitan Basketball Association two years ago.

Yanga admitted that the Panthers are among the favorites in the All Filipino Cup which starts on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum, considering their depth and experience.

Pop Cola earlier offered the rights over Balingit and Nelson Asaytono for Bong Hawkins and a future draft pick but Tanduay refused, citing the salary cap restrictions.

Pop Cola experienced the biggest shakeup during the off-season, taking in Johnny Abarrientos, Poch Juinio, Rudy Hatfield aside from regulars Jojo Lastimosa and Nelson Asaytono.

Martina edges Serena, faces Venus in semis

MELBOURNE, Australia — One Williams down, one to go for Martina Hingis.

The top-seeded Hingis spoiled a potential sibling semifinal showdown at the Australian Open by winning a dramatic marathon from Serena Williams 6-2, 3-6, 8-6 to complete the women's quarterfinals Wednesday.

Serena's sister, Venus, earlier overcame a slow start and a late deficit to edge Amanda Coetzer in another extended third set, 2-6, 6-1, 8-6.

In Thursday's semifinals, Hingis will renew her rivalry with third-seeded Venus Williams, who needs two more victories for her third consecutive Grand Slam tournament title. Hingis leads head-to-heads 9-7, but Williams won both meetings last year en route to titles at Wimbledon and the US Open.

Defending champion Lindsay Davenport, seeded second, will play No. 12 Jennifer Capriati in the other semifinal.

Hingis is bidding for her sixth Grand Slam title but her first in two years. She trailed 4-1 in the third set and was two points from defeat at 5-4 and deuce. But she broke Williams' serve to reach 5-5, then broke again in the final game, winning the second match point with an overhead smash.

Both players played their best tennis in the final few games.

"It was a great comeback," Hingis said. "I was just trying to hang in there. I wasn't feeling that great."

Neither was Williams, who complained of an upset stomach. She received treatment from a trainer during several changeovers, and she sometimes grimaced or bent over in apparent discomfort between points.

Williams also struggled with her serve and committed 54 errors. But Hingis needed 2 hours, 19 minutes to secure the victory.

"It was a great effort by both of us, and I was lucky," Hingis said. *AP*

HINGIS: Great comeback. AP

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open, Women's Semifinals at 10:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. (9:30 p.m. – 12 noon) on Sky Cable 17

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Virginia Cavaliers vs North Carolina Tar Heels at 8 a.m. (r –7:30 p.m.), Villanova Wildcats vs Connecticut Huskies at 10 a.m. on ESPN

NBA – New York Knicks vs Charlotte Hornets at 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Super Bowl XXXII Highlights - Denver Broncos vs Green Bay Packers (T) at 4 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: This is the PGA Tour at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA.Com Classic, Second Round at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN

BOWLING: PBA Silicon Valley Open at 9:30 p.m. on ESPN

HOCKEY: NHL - New Jersey Devils vs Dallas Stars tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Sports body sacks scribe's attackers

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission yesterday recommended the sacking of two PSC employees accused of attacking a sportswriter some two weeks ago.

The assault on Today sportswriter Miramon Nueva came following his expose on the reported pilferage, sale and falsification of records for the illegal release of sports equipment committed by his two attackers.

Jesus Sta. Maria Paulo and Eugene Garcia were found guilty by the investigative committee formed by PSC chair Carlos Tuason.

PSC legal division head Dhole Llanto said the verdict is without prejudice to the filing of criminal charges against them by the PSC and Nuevo, whom they beat up inside the office of commissioner Leonardo Celles. *Roy Luarca*

SPORTSWATCH

Dorothy Joy honored

DOROTHY Joy Delasin, last year's LPGA Rookie of the Year and PSA Athlete of the Year, received a lifetime honorary membership from Eastridge Golf Club during a tournament in her honor recently. Club managing director Rose de Ocampo awarded the accolade to Delasin, who was also feted with a fund-raising tournament. PC Tan took the Class A title, while Joe Arbaten and Josie Go won the Class B and C plums, respectively. Sponsoring the event were American Eye Center, Pinoy Auctions.Com, National-Panasonic, Citigold, SM Investments, Coca Cola, Prime East Properties, John Blackstone Shoes, Philcan Industrial, Marco-Lite, Aristocrat Lamps, Victory Canvass and Club Car.

Giants face challenge

TAMPA, Florida—Quote the Ravens—Never Score. Blame the Baltimore Ravens for the reworking of Edgar Allan Poe's classic line. The poet could never have forseen an American football club named for the hometown wordsmith's epic work would strike such fear into opposing offenses. Baltimore allowed only 165 points and 970 rushing yards this season, both the lowest totals since the NFL began 16-game seasons in 1978. Solving the Ravens defense is the challenge of the New York Giants in Super Bowl 35 Sunday. *AP*

PBL CUP

Hapee tries to stay alive

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	11	2
Welcoat	10	3
Montaña	7	7
Blu Sun Power	6	6
Hapee	6	6
Ateneo-Pioneer	5	8

GAMES TODAY

3:30 p.m.—Hapee vs Ateneo-Pioneer

5:30 p.m.—Montaña vs Blu

HAPEE Toothpaste tries to stay alive for the finals as it clashes with Ateneo-Pioneer today in the semifinals of the 2000 PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum. Gametime is 3:30 p.m.

The Teeth Sparklers remain the only team which stand in the way of a second straight Welcoat-Shark best-of-seven championship series.

Hapee must hurdle its last three remaining outings to avail of the 4-of-5 incentive and forge a playoff with the second best team for the last finals berth.

However, the task will be tough for coach Stevenson Tiu's wards. Hapee is coming into the game as an underdog, having lost to Ateneo-Pioneer, 55-64, last Dec. 9.

And in their last two matches, the Teeth Sparklers will tackle Blu Detergent and Shark Energy Drink.

"It's like passing through a path of thorns, and making it through the finals seems impossible. But as long as we firmly believe in Him, we can hurdle all these obstacles," said Tiu. *Dennis Eroa*

Literal . . . (From page 18)

Puyat as chair, MBA commissioner Ogie Narvasa as executive vice president, and PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino, who will be represented by Ricky Palou, as secretary general of his executive board.

Picked as BAP directors were PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad and BAP legal counsel Brigido Dulay.

Literal decried Jalasco's attempt to perpetuate himself in power by approaching the pro leagues.

"He (Jalasco) can be likened to a fugitive who was banished from his own home and sought refuge in the house of another," said Literal in a press statement.

Literal also accused Puyat of flip-flopping, agreeing to be the BAP chair again under his presidency and then accepting the same post under the Jalasco camp.

Literal's BAP executive vice president Bonifacio Alentajan denounced Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit for continuing to recognize Jalasco though they have informed him of the changes in the BAP leadership.

Honor long overdue for Lita

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT WAS an honor long overdue, but as certain as the rising of the sun, the late Lita de la Rosa has been finally enshrined in the International Bowling Hall of Fame.

Nominated by Baby Nepomuceno, mother of the legendary Paeng Nepomuceno, Lita de la Rosa thus became the only third bowler from the Philippines to make the World Bowling Writers' prestigious Hall of Fame. Four-time World cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno and Bong Coo-Garcia have been previously elected to the WBW elite list.

According to "Worldletter" of the WBW, Lita de la Rosa was cited for the year 2000 together with the still-going-strong Tomas Leandersson of Sweden for their "phenomenal achievements in tenpin bowling." De la Rosa, a longshot, won the coveted AMF World Cup title in Bogota, Colombia, in 1978 while Leandersson was one of the most dominant players on the world bowling scene during the 1990s.

A 41-year-old mother of four, Lita de la Rosa was a full-time GSIS employee with a fleet of three taxis on the side before she embarked on tenpin bowling with less than two years experience. She had been playing duckpin most of her life, which explained her natural tendency to roll a back-up.

"Worldletter" said: "After winning the World Cup in 1978, De la Rosa proved her victory in Bogota was no fluke, nor was this most unlikely of champions a one-tournament wonder. The next year in the FIQ World Championships, De la Rosa dominated the women's competition, claiming gold medals in the Masters, singles and doubles events, along with a silver in the trios and a bronze in the all-events.

"Four years later, she returned to the FIQ world event, and even as the competition had intensified, she claimed another medal, a bronze in the trios. It was a run of success unparalleled in that era."

Lita de la Rosa won the 1978 World Cup in Bogota by beating Ireland's Pauline Cafolla, 564-497. A bad heart cut short De la Rosa's life, but not before she made her strong presence felt, although rather briefly, in the world of international bowling. For truly, her career is phenomenal and she is deserving of a place in the Bowling Hall of Fame. Her picture alongside the new inductees will be added to the WBW display at the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in St. Louis, Missouri.

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NBA Results

Boston 83, Atlanta 82; Washington 97, Charlotte 95; Orlando 116, Toronto 111, 2OT; Milwaukee 105, New York 91; Minnesota 82, Phoenix 73; Seattle 91, LA Lakers 80; Philadelphia 114, Dallas 98; Portland 104, Chicago 100; San Antonio 110, Vancouver 77; Denver 105, Houston 100; Utah 100, Golden State 78; Sacramento 130, New Jersey 104. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

La Salle Zobel blanks Guevarra

NATIONAL Capital Region champion De La Salle Zobel beat P. Guevarra National High, 3-0, in the all-Luzon finals of the 17th Coke Go-for-Goal Tuesday. Coach Hans-Peter Smit's DLSZ booters raced to a 2-0 halftime lead en route to the lopsided triumph in the tourney sponsored by Coca-Cola with Adidas as official ball.

Literal, anti-Jalasco group hit new BAP

BY ROY LUARCA

LITERAL

THE NATION'S athletes—or at least some of them—have spoken: They now recognize Tiny Literal as president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

National players, led by men's team captain Romel Adducul, joined a protest rally by athletes, referees and staff of the BAP and the Philippine Weightlifting Association yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Carrying posters supporting Literal, the group of over a hundred or so cage personnel, including referees and coaches, also denounced the Philippine Olympic Committee, the Philippine Sports Commission, the PBA, the MBA and the PBL of "meddling into the internal affairs of the BAP and the PWA."

Jaime Sebastian, once Southeast Asia's strongest man, said they made their stand after learning that Freddie Jalasco has created a new BAP executive board

Jalasco was ousted as BAP president by the association's national board during a special meeting in Angeles City on Jan. 17.

"It is us, the athletes, who are being affected," said Sebastian, winner of 24 Southeast Asian Games gold medals from 1974 to the '80s. "The players can't concentrate on their training because of the leadership struggle."

Unable to draw support from the original BAP board members, Jalasco on Wednesday named Lito

LITERAL/A17

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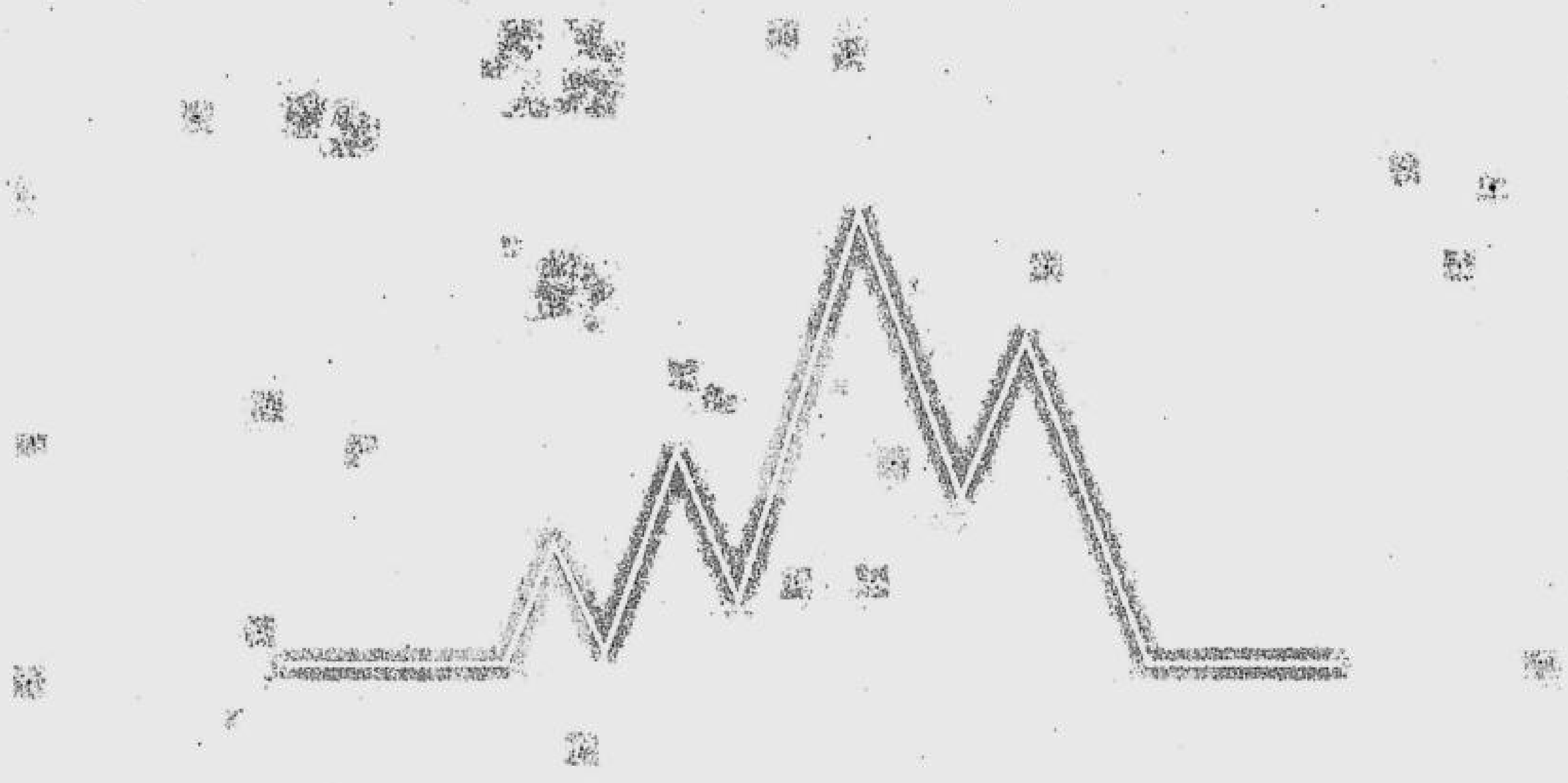

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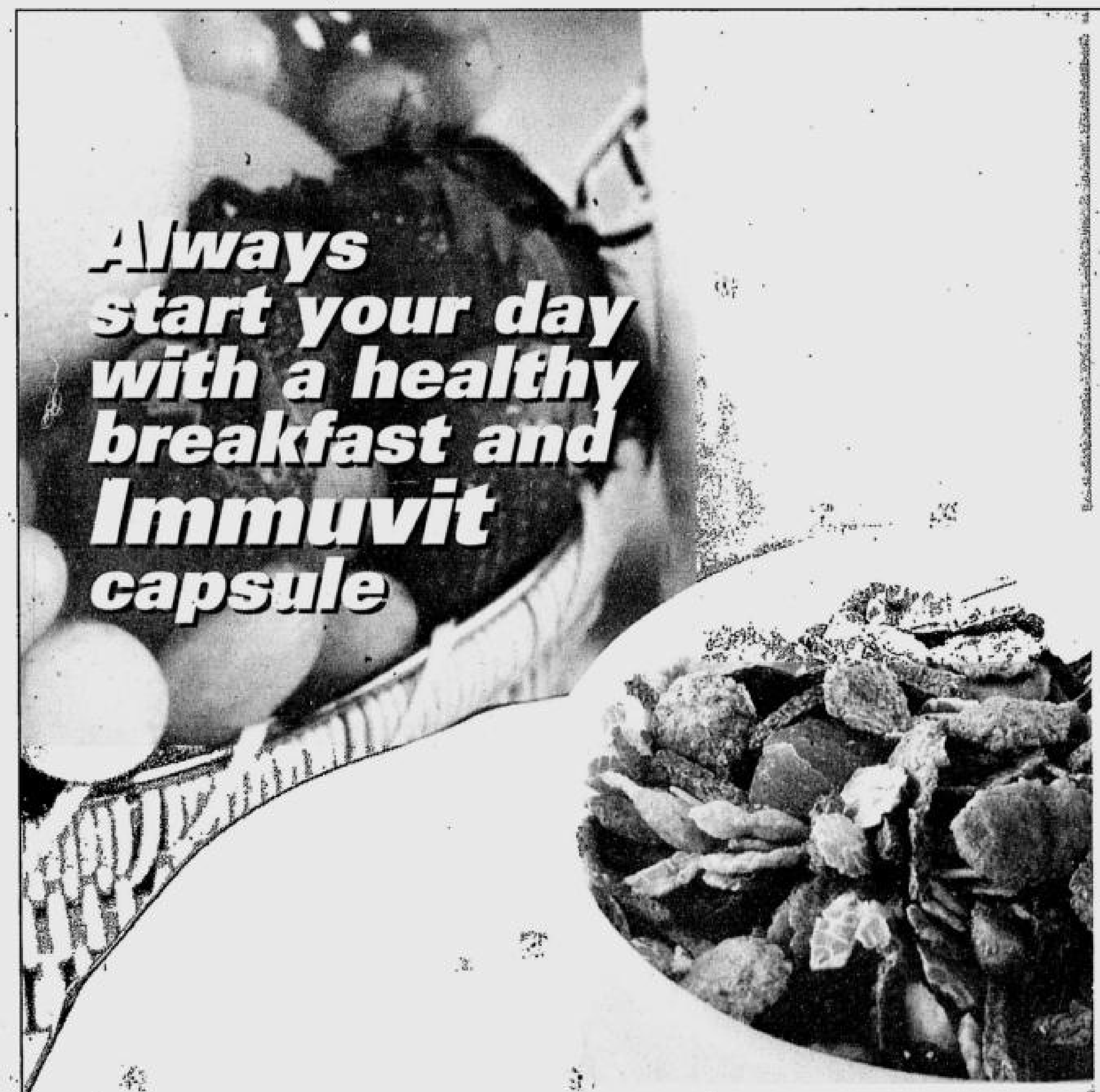
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Police uncover fake-loans gang A20

De Villa a wise choice as 'Little President' A20

SC stops dumping in San Mateo

By Rocky Nazareno

RESIDENTS of San Mateo town and Antipolo City in Rizal scored a victory after the Supreme Court yesterday granted a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the reopening of the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill (SMSL).

The Supreme Court, in a resolution issued by the third division, ordered the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to "cease and desist from unloading, discharging and dumping solid wastes and other garbage materials at the so-called San Mateo landfill in Barangay Pintong Bocaue."

Justice Jose A. R. Melo chairs the Supreme Court's third division.

The sprawling landfill, located in parts of San Mateo and Antipolo, closed on Dec. 31, 2000.

But then-President Estrada ordered its reopening on Jan. 11 after residents of Semirara Island in Antique, which was meant to be the alternative dump for Metro Manila's waste, protested against the dumping of trash in the environmental sanctuary near the resort island of Boracay. The residents managed to secure a TRO.

The TRO granted the Rizal government yesterday is indefinite unless the MMDA files a motion for reconsideration.

Protest actions against the reopening of the landfill escalated into violence on Jan. 13 when protesters, joined by Antipolo Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan, threw rocks and blocked traffic on a highway leading to the landfill.

And where would Metro Manila's mountains of trash be dumped?

Seventeen new sanitary landfill sites are vying for the honor.

The Project Management Office of the Presidential Task Force on Waste Management (PTFWM) has identified the sites, 13 of which belong to private owners and cover 3,921 hectares.

Among the sites are those in Alfonso and Magallanes in Cavite, Mabitak in Laguna, Norzagaray in Bulacan, Mariveles and Abucay in Bataan, San Antonio in Zambales, Dona Remedios Trinidad in Bulacan, Pililla in Rizal, and Pagbilao in Quezon.

But 10 of the 13 privately owned potential sites do not have an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) and two are waiting to submit their applications. Only the site in Magallanes, Cavite has an ECC.

The PTFWM said the suitability of the sites was based on the landfill site identification and screening criteria for local governments embodied in Administrative Order 98-50 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

As early as 1995, the PMO-PTFWM has been assisting the MMDA in the identification and evaluation of alternative sites for sanitary landfill. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

THE San Mateo landfill was closed on Dec. 31, 2000, but former President Estrada reopened it less than a month later.

KMU call: Junk Jinggoy, JV, stars

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Jerome Aning

THE KILUSANG Mayo Uno yesterday called on voters to support the "new politics" in the May 14 elections and to reject "recycled candidates," especially officials identified with ousted President Estrada who jumped ship in the dying hours of his administration.

"Voters should be more discerning this time around," said KMU chair Crispin Beltran. "The people should learn from the mistakes of the previous administration."

Among those whom the KMU wants rejected in the elections are San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, son of the former president who is running for San Juan congressman; his half-brother Jose Victor "JV" Ejercito, who wants to replace him as San Juan mayor; actor Rudy Fernandez, who is planning to run for Quezon City mayor; and actor Philip Salvador who is keen on becoming vice mayor of Mandaluyong.

The KMU and other militant groups belonging to the party-list group Bayan Muna earlier asked the electorate to dump Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, who is running for senator, for their close ties with the Estrada administration.

Beltran yesterday made another appeal to voters in Manila, asking them not to support former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim and former first lady Imelda Marcos, Atienza's likely rivals for the mayoral post.

Lim, who was Atienza's predecessor, is reportedly bent on retaking the Manila City Hall, but Beltran said Lim's plans to run for mayor was "unwelcome news."

"He barely made a dent as head of the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the high point of his stint as DILG head was his notorious spray-painting stunts against alleged drug addicts and pushers," Beltran said.

"After dumping Estrada and washing his hands of the administration that he used to be part of, he wants to reclaim what he apparently thinks is his kingdom, the city of Manila," Beltran added. "He's a disgrace to public service."

He said the widow of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos was "nothing but a nuisance candidate."

JUNK/ A20

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THURSDAY JANUARY 25 912-8983

Manzano files raps vs Binay

MAKATI City Vice Mayor Eduardo Manzano yesterday filed with the Office of the President administrative charges against Mayor Elenita Binay for oppression, misconduct in office, gross negligence, dereliction of duty and abuse of authority.

Manzano claimed the mayor violated provisions of the 1991 Local Government Code (Republic Act 7160) when she "bypassed" the Office of the Vice Mayor and signed two city measures which "are not complete."

If found guilty, Mayor Binay could be suspended.

The city measures in question are Ordinance 2000-081 on the appropriation of P4.267 billion as city budget for 2001, and Resolution 2000-220 on the renewal of the contract with the city's garbage haulers.

Manzano said he did not endorse the ordinance for the 2001 city budget because it provided for the questionable purchase of office equipment and furniture amounting to some P600 million.

"They failed to justify the (P600 million) they are asking for when I sought the necessary documentation for the purchases," Manzano explained.

"For instance, they want to purchase an ordinary office computer, which has a tag price of only P29,000, for P130,000," he added.

He debunked reports that there had been a disruption in the delivery of basic services to the

MANZANO/ A20

MANZANO

BINAY

ABALOS

Ex-Mandaluyong mayor Abalos is MMDA chair

FORMER Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Sr., father of the incumbent Mayor Benhur Abalos, is the new Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair.

Abalos took over the post after President Macapagal yesterday accepted Jejomar Binay's resignation as MMDA chair.

In accepting the new post, Abalos said he would review all MMDA policies on traffic and garbage collection to ensure that it would be in tune with the changing times.

He said he would concentrate on solving the garbage and traffic problems of Metro Manila as he appealed to all Metro Manila mayors for support.

He said he would vigorously pursue alternative means of garbage disposal and he urged the local executives to strictly implement the garbage segregation scheme in their areas.

"I will see to it that the changes I will make will be felt by Metro Manila residents as soon as possible," Abalos, who is also a former Pasig municipal trial court judge, told the Inquirer.

Metro Manila's garbage and traffic problems are the twin scourge of the MMDA. They hounded every MMDA administration.

Abalos said he would also look into all contracts entered into by the MMDA to determine whether these are not detrimental to the interest of Metro Manila residents.

He said he would investigate all negative reports reaching his office on the MMDA contracts.

He assured career officials of the MMDA that there would be no drastic reorganization but he stressed that the performance of every official would be evaluated to determine his or her efficiency.

"If they're not efficient, they should be transferred," he said.

This is the second time Abalos held the top MMDA post. He first became MMDA chair in January 1990 and held the position for eight months.

Binay said in a press statement that he is leaving the MMDA to run for mayor of Makati City.

He stressed that his initial resignation, which he immediately submitted after President Estrada was ousted, was first rejected by President Macapagal.

Binay earlier endorsed Pateros Mayor Jose Capco as his replacement.

Nelson F. Flores

Makati police official beaten up for interfering in drug buy-bust

By Alcuin Papa

A MAKATI police official on Tuesday night was beaten up for interfering in the arrest of a drug suspect.

Senior Insp. Efren Valmores, 49, tried to stop members of the Makati police intelligence unit from arresting drug suspect Cris Baba in the latter's house on Washington Street in Barangay Pio Del Pilar, Makati at about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to a report to city police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez.

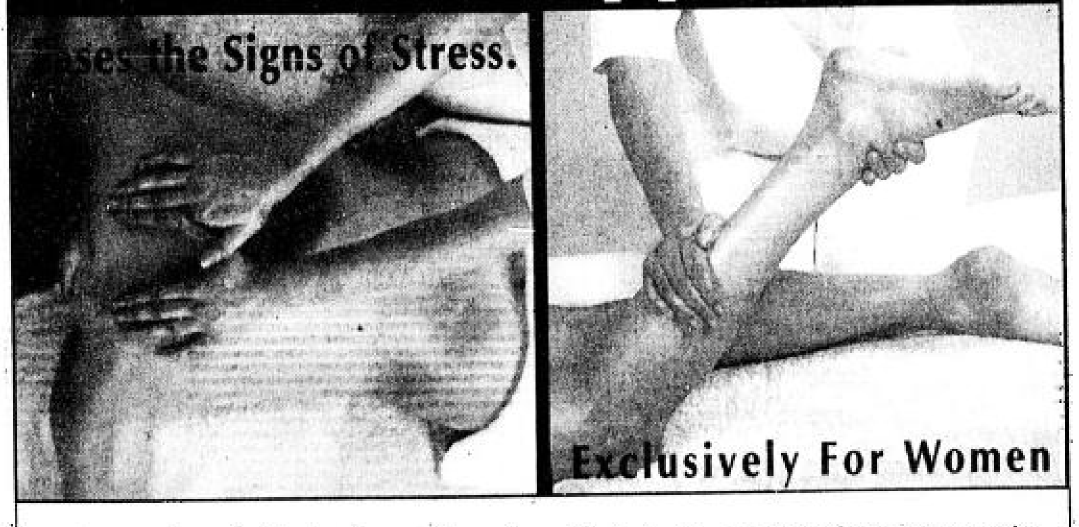
The Makati Police Criminal Investigation Division said in the report that Valmores, resident of Jabson 2, Pasig City and assigned to the National Capital Region Police Office in Bicutan, Taguig, was in Baba's house at the time of the arrest.

While Valmores reportedly argued with members of the arresting team—led by SPO3 Chito Macasaet—the drug suspect escaped.

When the arresting officers learned that Baba had fled, they beat up the hapless Valmores, investigators said. The lawmen then took Valmores into custody.

Confiscated from Valmores were marijuana leaves allegedly hidden in his badge and a .45 cal. pistol with an expired permit.

The gun also did not have the necessary papers exempting it from the gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections.



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Police uncover fake-loans gang

By Agnes E. Donato

PASIG police on Tuesday uncovered what could be a big-time syndicate behind multimillion-peso fake loans from accredited police lending institutions after one of its suspected members was arrested on Tuesday in Pasig City.

Benny Pinaga, 40, a guard of Securitron Security Services and resident of Palmera Homes in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, was arrested while trying to collect a P50,000-loan at the HMC Lending Corp. in Ortigas Center, said Supt. Federico Castro, Eastern Police District (EPD) intelligence chief.

Pinaga's arrest unmasked the syndicate's operations after he was found to have used the name of SPO2 Nicasio Diviva in procuring the loan, said Insp. Eduardo Villaruel of the EPD-Criminal Investigation Division.

Upon verification, officials of the lending firm found out that Pinaga gave false information. Police also found a PNP control tag with Diviva's name but with Pinaga's picture on it.

Villaruel said police are still coordinating with the personnel division of the PNP to determine whether Diviva is in its list.

Castro said part of the syndicate's modus operandi was using identities of policemen who have gone Awol (absence without leave) in claiming loans. He said this had been going on for years.

The EPD director, Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon Jr., ordered an investigation of members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel and comptroller division to identify those who could be protecting the illegal activities of the syndicate.

"We firmly believe that there are members of the group inside the PNP personnel and comptroller, so we are digging deeper into the matter," said Dizon.

Pinaga was charged yesterday with usurpation of authority at the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, January 25, 2001
Conversion of St. Paul

1st Reading: **Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22**
Gospel: **Mk 16:15-18**

Jesus told his disciples, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; the one who refuses to believe will be condemned. Signs like these will accompany those who have believed: in my Name they will cast out demons and speak new languages; they will pick up snakes and, if they drink anything poisonous, they will be unharmed. They will lay their hands on the sick and they will be healed."

Commentary:

An interpreter's job is not an easy thing. He has to have a good command of different languages to make different parties understand each other. This seems to me to be a good image for the apostle's universal mission as described in today's Gospel. He is to bridge the gaps that divide clans, tribes, ethnic groups, parties, social classes, nationalities, etc. Ironically the one who took this job most seriously was not even one of the twelve. And he had to put up with a good deal of hostility when he claimed to be an apostle. "Conversion" is probably just another way of talking about Paul learning a new language, a new tongue, what Luke—at Pentecost—calls tongues "as of fire." For everyone who receives the Spirit of God gets to speak God's language and thus communicate with every son or daughter of God.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Mere relationship of witness to victim does not impair credibility—The assessment of credibility of witnesses made by the trial court is generally accorded great weight and respect in view of its unique opportunity to observe the demeanor of the witnesses during their testimonies. In the absence of any matters of substance which may have been overlooked by the trial court, We had no cogent reason to overturn the findings of facts of the trial court. The mere fact that the sole eyewitness presented in court is the brother-in-law of the victim does not affect his credibility. Mere relationship of a witness to the victim, whether by consanguinity or affinity, does not necessarily impair his credibility as a witness nor does it impair his positive and clear testimony and render it unworthy. On the contrary, relationship with a victim would deter a witness from indiscriminately implicating anybody to the orime. Is nature and usual interest would be to identify the malefactor and secure his conviction to obtain true justice for the death of a relative. More importantly, the eyewitness account as to the manner of the attack and the location of the wounds is corroborated by the post-mortem examination. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, *En Banc*, People v. Hilot, G.R. No. 129532, October 5, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

'Addict' kills pa, hurts ma

AFTER learning that his parents planned to send him back to a drug rehabilitation center, a suspected drug user went berserk and clubbed his parents, killing his 70-year-old father, on Wednesday in Caloocan City.

Norberto Santos, 37, of Libis, Baesa in Caloocan, an ex-convict believed to be also suffering from a mental disorder, seriously injured his 56-year-old mother Marcelina, who is still in critical condition. His father Apolonio died while being treated at the Manila Central University Hospital.

Police said that when Santos came home at about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, he found out that his parents were planning to send him again to a rehabilitation center.

Believed to be under the influence of drugs, Santos allegedly went wild. When his parents tried to pacify him, he took a steel bar and started clubbing them with it, police said.

Santos only stopped when he saw his parents unconscious and bleeding on the floor, police said.

Barangay officials arrested Santos, who is said to have been in and out of rehabilitation centers and mental institutions.

Agnes E. Donato

De Villa a wise choice as "Little President"

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ROBERTO Lastimoso, former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, called to clarify reports that recently resigned PNP chief Panfilo Lacson was nearly beaten up by disgruntled police officers.

"I was there, Mon, when Mati (PNP Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano) met Ping (Lacson) at Linden (building in Ortigas). Nothing of that sort happened," Lastimoso said.

Lastimoso said he would not have allowed violence in his presence. Also present was retired Gen. Renato de Villa, newly appointed Executive Secretary.

***

What really happened, according to Lastimoso, was that Matillano, who was Lacson's classmate at the Philippine Military Academy Class '71, greeted Lacson but the former PNP chief tried to avoid him.

Matillano proffered his hand in friendship to Lacson, Lastimoso said. But Lacson refused to shake the hand of his "mistah" (classmate).

Lacson tried in vain to put a distance between him and Matillano. This angered Matillano who took it as an insult.

***

"Bakit ka umiiwas sa akin, Mistah, takot ka ba? Mukhang naduduwag ka ngayon? (Why are you trying to avoid me, are you afraid. Have you turned into a coward)?" Lastimoso quoted Matillano as telling Lacson.

"Putlang-putla si Ping at nanginginig sa takot (Ping paled and shook in fear). But Matillano never attempted to harm him," said Lastimoso.

Lacson, said Lastimoso, was no longer PNP chief at the time of the confrontation because President Arroyo already accepted his resignation.

***

There was bad blood between Lacson and Matillano. When Lacson took over as PNP chief, he had Matillano placed on "floating status," a situation where an official does not hold a responsible position.

This was reportedly in retaliation for Matillano's raid on Lacson's office when Joseph Estrada was still Vice President. Matillano's superiors suspected Lacson of bugging the phones of top government officials and ordered Matillano to conduct the raid. At that time, Lacson was reporting directly to then Vice President Estrada who was chief of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

Estrada had already declared his intentions of running for president. He reportedly used Lacson to "bug" the homes and offices of his political rivals.

***

When Lacson took over the post of PNP chief, he reportedly persecuted officers who were closely identified with former President Ramos by not giving them assignments. Ramos had supported defeated presidential candidate Jose de Venecia.

He also reportedly insulted some of Ramos' boys by making them hold positions very much lower than those held by favored junior officers.

Although Lacson was a straight and honest PNP chief, he was not a magnanimous leader. He was vindictive to former foes that became his subordinates. He lavished promotions and juicy assignments to PNP officers close to him.

***

Lacson followed his boss Estrada's principle: "*Panahon nila noon, panahon naman natin ngayon* (They had their time, it's now ours)."

That principle suited his and Estrada's vindictive nature.

The same principle is being applied against him now. Instead, Lacson should have heeded the saying, "treat people nicely on your way up because you'll meet the same people on your way down."

Nothing in this world is permanent, baby!

***

It seems President Arroyo really prepared for her eventual takeover from Estrada long before Edsa 2. Her selection of people who now compose her new government does not look like it was hurriedly done; it looks like the appointments were well studied.

For one, Renato de Villa, former Armed Forces chief of staff and former secretary of national defense, is the best choice for Executive Secretary.

De Villa's record as a military officer—chief of the defunct Philippine Constabulary (PC), PC regional commander, PC battalion commander, PC provincial commander—was unblemished. The guy was "Mr. Clean" in the graft-ridden PC.

But De Villa has his downside: He was so careful in making important decisions he gave the impression that he was indecisive. That's why he earned the moniker of "*Teka-Teka* General (Wait-Wait General)."

***

The appointment of Richard Gordon as Tourism Secretary is a slap to deposed President Estrada.

Gordon, well loved by his constituents as Olongapo City mayor, was chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) when newly installed President Estrada kicked him out even if he had a six-year contract to serve as SBMA chief. The reason: Estrada's vindictive nature.

As SBMA chair, Gordon brought in many foreign investments into the free trade zone. The guy is a forceful and convincing salesman of the SBMA.

As tourism chief, Dick Gordon will convince many tourists to visit the Philippines.

***

The appointment of three-star PNP general Reynaldo Wycoco as the new director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will surely be questioned by some quarters because he is not a lawyer.

Most of Wycoco's predecessors—Epimaco Velasco, Alfredo Lim, Santiago Toledo, Antonio Aragon, Federico Opinion—are lawyers. Most of them came from the ranks of the NBI.

But Wycoco, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class '68, brings to the NBI impressive credentials as a good manager. Aside from holding key posts at the PNP and the defunct PC-INP, Wycoco is also a Harvard graduate in management.

***

Among the new batch of police generals, Marcelo Ele Jr., director of the Aviation Security Group, has the most impressive credentials. At 50, he's also the youngest.

Ele is a lawyer, a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila College of Law. He is a helicopter pilot, a scuba diver, a national archer, recipient of Senior Field Officer of the Year Award for Metro Manila for two consecutive years and recipient of "Parangal ng Bayan" Award (1996)—the highest award the Civil Service Commission confers on government officials and employees.

And, he's also single, according to him.

Manzano files raps... (From page A19)

city when he refused to endorse the 2001 city budget.

He said that based on Section 323 of the Code, Makati City's 2000 annual budget would be automatically "reenacted" if the council failed to pass its 2001 budget.

Manzano said he presided over the Makati City council session when the two city measures were approved on Dec. 5.

But his office was not furnished copies of the approved measures right away. Manzano said he received copies only on Dec. 15.

He said he is not required to sign the measures within a certain period, adding that there are no laws compelling him to do so.

"This prerogative is not ministerial or directory," he said in his complaint.

On the renewal of the garbage contract, he said the resolution was not accompanied by a supporting document or a copy of the draft contract.

The terms and conditions of the garbage contract were not also fully disclosed to the city council.

Manzano said he feared that by endorsing the resolution, he might open himself up to possible administrative or criminal liability.

But according to city council members and barangay leaders, Manzano's decision to withhold endorsement of the resolution had greatly affected garbage collection in the city.

Already, health officials and barangay leaders are preparing an emergency plan for the possible outbreak of cholera in Makati because of the garbage piling up on the streets.

"We appeal to the vice mayor to consider his action's serious implications to public health and safety," an official of the Makati Health Department said.

The Liga ng mga Barangay also appealed to Manzano to sign the ordinance.

"Will the vice mayor wait for people to die from cholera before he realizes the folly of putting politics ahead of the people's welfare?" asked Liga president Rodolfo Sese.

City officials said all barangay health centers and the Ospital ng Makati have been placed on full alert for any possible outbreak. ***With a report from Nelson Flores***

Junk Jinggoy, JV... (From page A19)

"The widow of the dictator, she was also instrumental in the destruction of numerous urban poor communities and the livelihood of many in Manila during her halcyon days in Malacañang," Beltran said.

Bayan Muna is fielding former National Democratic Front spokesperson Satur Ocampo as its nominee to a sectoral seat in the House of Representatives in the party-list elections in May.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamamalakaya) added its voice to the KMU call against Atienza, Lim and Marcos.

Pamamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon said voters in Manila should look for "an alternative choice" rather than choose from among the allies of Estrada.

The group said Atienza "marginalized the anti-Estrada rallies and put obstacles to the conduct of mass actions calling for Estrada's resignation or ouster."

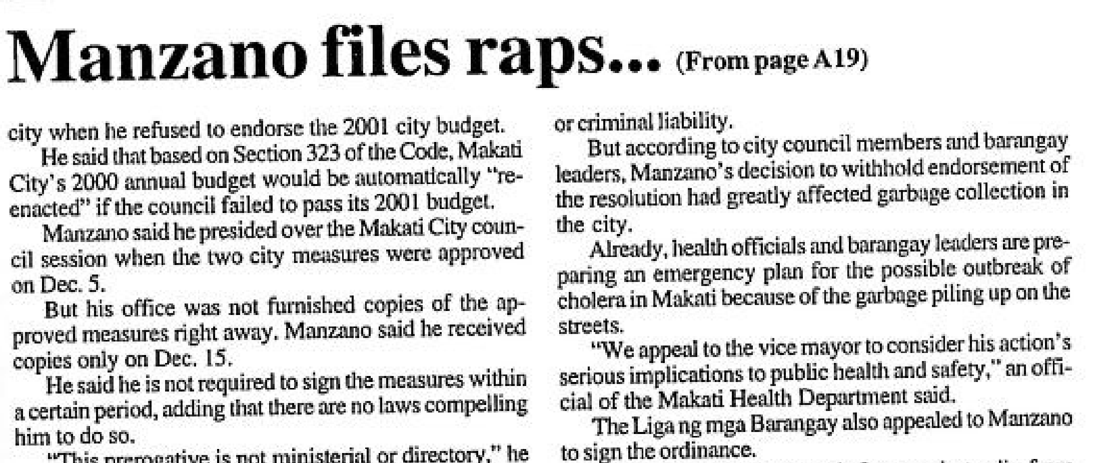
It said Lim led the investigation late last year of the ownership of several mansions said to be owned by the former president's mistresses. The National Bureau of Investigation, which did the probe, said it did not find any link between the mansions and Estrada.

Lim was also accused of violating the rights of many people on mere suspicion of being peddlers of prohibited drugs.

"The victory of Lim or Marcos may bring back the old glory of the Marcos dictatorship in Manila, since the two were experts, and trained, under Martial Law," Sambajon said.

Pamamalakaya also predicted that former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, whom Atienza defeated in 1998, will face another humiliating defeat if he decides to run for mayor of Manila again.

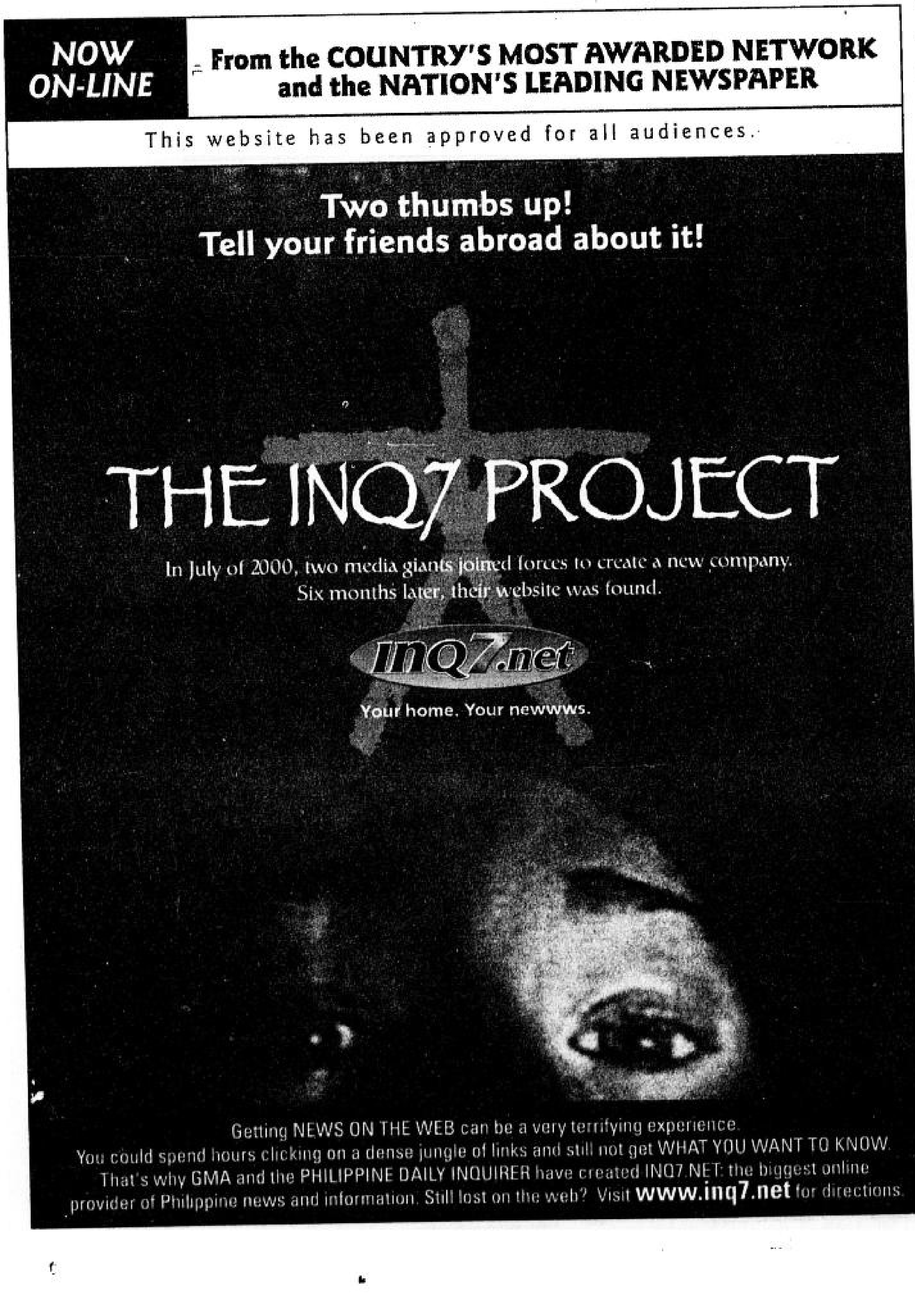
Maceda was a former ambassador to the United States and was Estrada's spokesman during the impeachment trial.



STICKY SITUATION

Boxes and boxes of "tikoy" or rice cakes sell like, well, hotcake in many stores along Ongpin Street, the center of Manila's Chinatown in Binondo, as the local Chinese community celebrates the coming of the Year of the Snake.

DENNIS SABANGAN



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Cesar-Sunshine expecting visit from stork soon

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

MY unimpeachable (that word again) source told me that **Sunshine Cruz** is two weeks "delayed" so there's a big possibility that she's infanticipating already.

If she's preggy indeed, **Cesar Montano** must be really excited. Although he already has kids of his own, they're already grown up so Cesar must be missing cuddling and cooing to a little bundle of joy. No doubt, Shine will still be curvy even when she's preggy.

To Shine and Buboy, hope it's not a false alarm.

Carmina's private moments

CARMINA Villaroel has fought for her love so hard she truly deserves to be happy. As I wrote in my column last week, she gave birth to twins in the first week of January. People have been wondering if she's back in town with **Zoren Legaspi** and their babies.

My good friend in LA relayed to me that Mina is now staying in La Feliz, a quiet retirement area in LA. I guess Mina wants to enjoy her privacy before she flies back home to face the showbiz circus.

Erratum: In connection with my item on Carmina last week, so many readers called my attention to a booboo I made about fraternal and identical twins. I stand corrected. Thanks for the correction!

President's son

HAD the chance to hang out with **Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo** several times. Now that he's a presidential son, I must say that he does not have tendencies to be swellheaded. In many ways, he's still like a kid trapped in a man's body.

Sorry I can't divulge who Mikey's biggest love is, although they were never really on. It was a sort of a never-never love. I was with them a few months back. Right Mikey?

Wonder if he will now have the guts to really pursue **Judy Ann Santos** who has been linked to him. Or will he be too busy with his duties as a presidential son and Pampanga vice governor to-be?

CESAR/ A24

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
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7	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOOBA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
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11	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

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4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WHIPPED
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MEET THE PARENTS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
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12	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
7	DTS	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE'

'Rocky,' with a mystical slant

BY EMMIE G. VELARDE

REVIEW

CROSS your fingers and scan today's movie directories. "The Legend of Bagger Vance," directed by Robert Redford, may still be showing somewhere. Pack a meal fast and catch it, those of you who were sidetracked by Edsa 2001 on the way to the movies last week, and especially those who have not forgotten the subtle charm of "A River Runs Through It," also Redford . . . heck, even just the colors of "Out of Africa," starring Redford.

If possible, make a run for the first screening. On the day I went, where I went, Last Full Show was canceled because of negative ticket sales.

I remember going to great lengths in pursuit of the soundtrack of Lawrence Kasdan's 1984 movie, "The Big Chill," succeeding only 10 months ago, or 16 years later. This week my priority quest is for a copy of the 1995 novel by Steven Pressfield (is this a real name?) on which "The Legend of Bagger Vance" is based.

Why, you may ask? Let me take it from Will Smith, who plays the title role of an angel/mystic guide disguised as a caddy: "It's rare you pick up a script and love 90 percent of the words. I was dying to get on the set to deliver what was written."

Of course this is from a six-year veteran of the golf links who, at this point, understandably sees more than green grass out on "the field." I must have the Pressfield book because I could not take notes fast enough, or even write legibly, in the complete darkness of the moviehouse. And I wanted to write down 90 percent of the words, no kidding.

Set in the 1920s, "The Legend of Bagger Vance" is a meaning-of-life tale, but light enough for the fast-talking Smith to coin the word "dramedy." It tells of Junuh, a brilliant amateur golfer (Matt Damon) who goes off to war and gets so traumatized he "loses his swing." He returns to his native Savannah, determined to forget and be forgotten.

He would have succeeded, had not two people in the whole town nurtured such indelible memories of him – his former fiancée and an 11-year-old boy who idolizes him. A grand tournament mounted to help pull the town out of the Depression, if momentarily, drags Junuh back to the limelight, and effectively back to life.

Smith says the best part of the film was being able to play golf everyday. Damon, who had never played the game before, soon caught the bug and threw himself fully into an intensive month-long course, once separating a rib while swinging a club.

"It took every ounce of my devotion," the award-winning Damon admits.

But Director Redford definitely doesn't see this as a sports movie. "I'm only interested in golf," he says, "as a metaphor for life.

Redford talks of "the zone" in this context as more than a fad diet. "It's the spot where talent finds its rhythm with whatever larger forces exist," he says.

This pretty much explains the best parts of the movie. The mysterious caddy shows up apparently from nowhere when Junuh is prepared to pick up the pieces (when the student is ready, the teacher will come). Gently, the caddy helps the rusty golfer rediscover self-confidence and, beyond that, self-esteem and renewed purpose.

Did I just say that? Sounds melodramatic, but craftily, the "aha!" moments are made to merely catch up on the viewer. While things are happening on the big screen, they look fairly casual and therefore unthreatening.

Once Junuh decides to trust the stranger, he begins to "see" as Bagger "sees"—the field, his own groove, where and how these two elements come together. He learns to see only the goal, to the exclusion of everything else, including himself.

This notion is not new. We've seen it employed in the "Rocky" and "Karate Kid" series, without the mystical slant. Which is to say, the movie is rife with scriptural archetypes (oldest I can think of is the great archer Arjuna in the "Bhagavad Gita"). But in "Bagger Vance" the rendition is more poetic. A vast field dissolves into a hundred shades of green, everything in it melted like hazy dreams of 84 lifetimes, all but the one aim at hand.

There's just the right number of these scenes, too. Trust Redford, "patron saint" of Hollywood's independent filmmakers, to shun excess. And let's not talk about the—check this out and drool—$70 million final tab. He says a larger budget would have taken along with it "a high level of bureaucracy" that would have killed "the experience."

Smith acknowledges this "experience," saying he had to focus and create a character for the first time, "not just do my Will Smith thing and get paid."

Damon confesses he first had to get over The Legend of Robert Redford. But the director, Damon found out soon enough, was "really down-to-earth" and "we cut through the bulls—t pretty quickly."

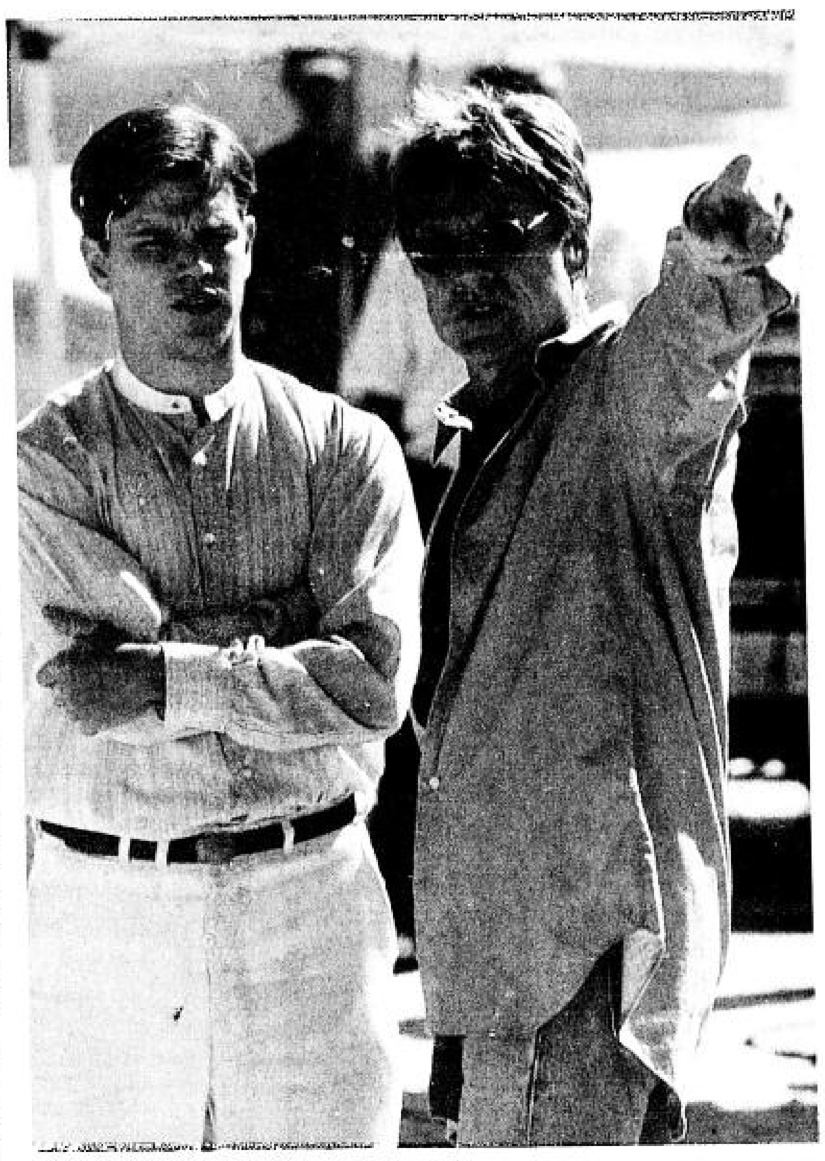
Redford also talks about a "special energy" which he credits to the southern extras. Fun? They had this as well. Smith describes Damon as "a great blend of intellect and pure silliness."

It is said that Redford considered playing the golfer himself, and then approached actor Brad Pitt. Finally, he decided he wanted a younger person, saying, "It's far more interesting when a younger person is damaged while faced with their whole life ahead of them."

If he was tackling that issue, I personally did not notice. So cool is the director's way I later found out the approach was deliberate.

"The last film I did," Redford reveals in a TV interview, "was heavy lifting emotionally ('The Horse Whisperer,' 1999). I decided that the next time out, I would pick something uplifting and more eccentric."

Redford followers and believers hoped "The Legend of Bagger Vance" would not be "handicapped by its own sensibility." I'm afraid this has happened to some extent, certainly at the box-office. But It's not Redford's loss, or Smith's, or Damon's, and you shouldn't have to make it yours. If you find that the movie has been pulled out of the theaters, wait for it on tape, if it takes 16 years.



'PATRON SAINT' of indie makers Robert Redford prepares his star, Matt Damon.

Cleansing and renewal in show business

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

PEOPLE Power Two has jolted Filipinos into the realization that, jaded notions to the contrary, the country has what it takes to reform and revitalize its institutions.

That's why, this early, Edsa 2001 stalwarts are vowing to continue the struggle for cleansing and renewal where it matters most, in our hearts and lives.

What about the world of show business? Will it be keeping up with the rest of the nation in this ethical, recovery program, or will it desperately hold on to its tattered attitudes, practices and institutions?

We checked with some of our show biz colleagues and, sad to say, they weren't very optimistic about the entertainment industry's capability for self-renewal. Still, they volunteered these areas urgently in need of reforms:

In entertainment in general, negative values being projected by productions and recordings, weakening the ethical standards of the populace, especially the youth.

- Unfair labor practices in producer-worker relationships.
- Monopolies in the TV-movie trade.
- Payola in entertainment publicity and promotions.

Other, more specific, problems that need to be addressed, put by our respondents in the form of questions:

"Why do so many new talents have to trade sexual favors in order to get the breaks they deserve?"

"Why is entertainment regarded as merely escapist fluff, instead of the powerful tool for character and nation-building that it can be?"

"Why are show biz leaders so reactionary and lacking in the dynamism needed to get the entertainment industry out of the rut it's in?"

"Why do so many show biz people fail to acknowledge and live up to their responsibility to their audience?"

The hope is that responsible members and new leaders of the entertainment industry will emerge to answer these questions and address these needs. We also trust that the members of the entertainment audience will be similarly reform-oriented.

Only if we become more vigilant and articulate our complaints through letters to producers and in the media will we exercise our own people power in entertainment. And only then will show biz people be forced to clean up their act and do better work.

TV treats

TOMORROW, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. on Viva Cinema 23, the film on view is "Engkanto" with **Francis Magalona** and **Janice de Belen**.

On Star Movies on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 9 p.m., "Dad Savage," a British heist caper, stars **Patrick Stewart**, **Jake Wood** and **Kevin Mckidd**. At 7 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Secret China" tells the stories of Chinese tribes and nomads. At 10 p.m., "Around Alone: The Everest of Sailing," details the eight-month ordeal of an international solo yacht race.

On Sunday, Jan. 28 at 10 p.m. on Viva Cinema 23, "Negligee" stars **Amalia Jones**, **Jeffrey Santos** and **Philip Henson**. At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "The Land of Mercy" focuses on a city where Tibet meets China, where cultures clash and merge. Also at 9 p.m., this time on Star Movies, the film is "Ronin" with **Jean Reno**, **Robert de Niro** and **Jonathan Pryce**.

Golden Globes have spoken

THE GOLDEN Globe awards for TV-Film Year 2000 have been announced, with major honors going to films like "Gladiator" and "Almost Famous," and actors like **Julia Roberts** ("Erin Brokovich"), **Tom Hanks** ("Cast Away"), **George Clooney** ("O Brother, Where Art Thou") and **Renee Zellweger** ("Nurse Betty").

Since the Golden Globes often serve as a preview of the Oscars, these decisions augur well for these films and stars' chances in the Academy Awards—except for the fact that the Oscars don't give separate awards for drama and comedy, so the likes of Roberts and Zellweger may end up competing with each other, with only one of them (if at all) emerging triumphant.

Still, the Golden Globes have spoken, and Academy Award jurors must be listening intently, out of habit. Will Oscar's Best Picture trophy go to "Gladiator"? Will Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts clinch the Academy Awards' top acting honors? Pop history tells us that they there's a 70-percent probability of their doing exactly that.

Quote, unquote

JOHN Cage: If someone says "can't," that shows you what to do. That's your opportunity!

Thomas Edison: Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Norman Cousins: We are wide-eyed in contemplating the possibility that life may exist elsewhere in the universe, but we wear blinders when contemplating the possibilities of life on earth!

Cesar . . .

(From page A23)

Readers react

AFTER Edsa People Power 2, I've been deluged by e-mail. Although we can't always have the same choices, what matters is we respect other's views.

Just want to give way to one e-mail, for something to ponder.

"This is the price we pay for having politicians who use movie stars and singers in their campaigns. This sector of society has probably gotten sick of being used by others to win elections. This must be their way of getting back at us. Why sing and dance for the benefit of another politician if they can do it for themselves?

"Perhaps their careers have gotten stagnant. The next seemingly logical choice would be to go bold or give politics a shot. Since not a lot of them have bodies they can flaunt and not everyone is willing to go under the knife, they grab option No. 2.

"More moolah to rake in, with no scripts to memorize.

"Fame has gotten to their heads. They think that just because they've got a few thousand Filipinos worshipping the ground they walk on, getting into government would be a breeze.

"'I've conquered the silver screen, now it's time to conquer the world!'"

"For experience. Yes. At the expense of the entire nation. Why am I seething? Because this is my country they are all planning to screw up. Listen to me, you aspiring politicians: a few movies and a couple of hit songs that are not even any good do not give you the right to create chaos in this already chaotic environment. Your autographs and swiveling hips will not solve this country's problems. You are in show business for a reason. You finally found something you are good at (I hope). Don't turn your back on that.

"Politics takes a lot more than just sitting down, looking pretty and posing for the paparazzi. Have you ever even read the Constitution? Have you studied the branches of this country's government?

"Assuming you win, let me remind you that there will be no one to hand you a script to memorize. There will be no idiot boards, no stupid lyrics to remember, no stuntmen. You actually need to make the gray matter work. Your own words, your own wheels at work. There will be no director to yell 'Cut!' And (gasp!) no retakes."

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

Ai-Ai spoofs Edsa 2

FROM the creators of the famous "Rock Da Vote" series comes another irreverent look at the Pinoy situation.

"PP2: Remember Me!" stars comedy concert queen Ai-Ai de las Alas, Feb. 23 and 24 at Music Museum

The show marks Ai-Ai's return to stand-up comedy but also has elements of her previous Folk Arts Theater concerts like "Respect Me," "Seduct Me" and "Abuse Me."

Ai-Ai and her featured guests take pot shots at pro-Erap, anti-Erap and everything in-between, like dancing queens, coffee shop activities, ex-presidential mistresses, ex-presidential baliws, ex-presidents and a hodgepodge of creatures and caricatures that are purely Pinoy.

"PP2: Remember Me!" is directed by Floy Quintos and written by Ricky Lopez. For inquiries, call Music Museum at 721-0635/721-6726 or Ticketworld at 891-5610.

Jacqui Magno sings at Ciao tonight

MAGNO

MAKE Thursday night a jazz experience with Jacqui Magno taking centerstage at Ciao Bar-Ristorante, 10 tonight.

Jacqui will carry out her soulful renditions of blues together with the Saint Tropez Band.

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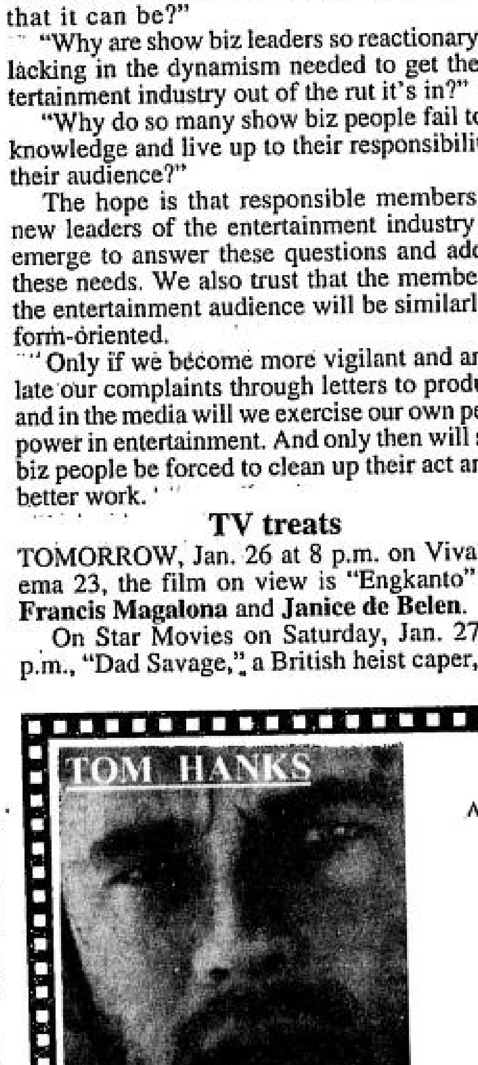

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1 RED PLANET 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	2 DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR? 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	3 MEET THE PARENTS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20
4 LITTLE NICKY 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	5 REMEMBER THE TITANS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20	6 HIGHLANDER 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30

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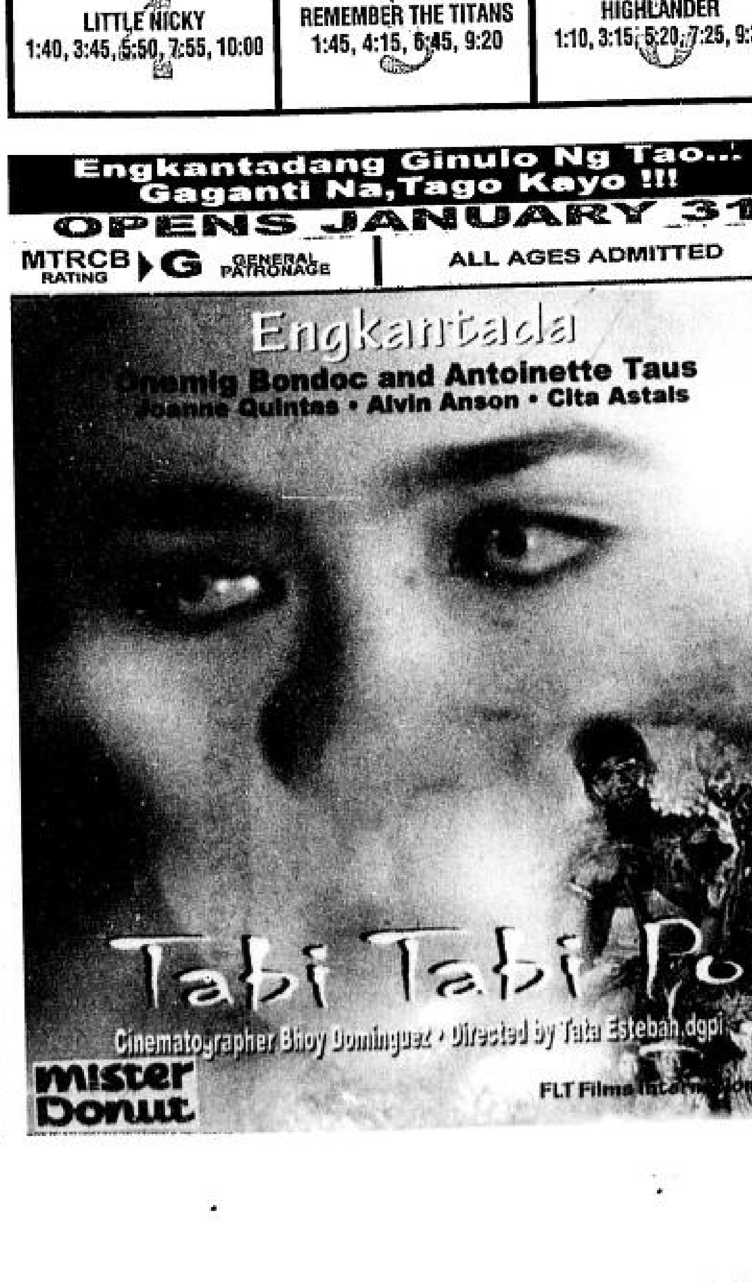

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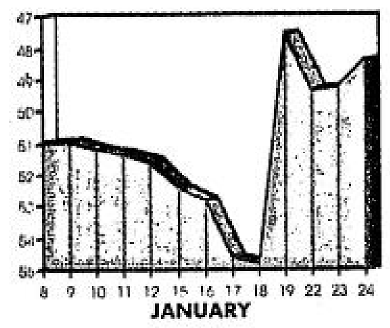


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P48.35 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 24, 2001

¥117.14 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 117.14 as of 5 p.m., Jan. 24, 2001

GOLD:$266.30/266.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 22, 2001

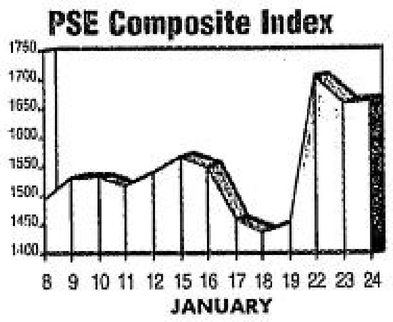
STOCK MARKET

Stocks rise

THE KEY stock index rose, adding to its 15-percent rise this month, on hopes the central bank will cut interest rates today to help boost growth in one of Asia's slowest growing economies.

STOCKS/ B2

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

WB prods new gov't to curb corruption

THE WORLD Bank said yesterday it hoped the change of government in the Philippines would put an end to the pervasive corruption in the country.

Vinay Bhargava, World Bank country director for the Philippines, said in a statement he hoped "concrete and decisive actions would soon follow to analyze the corrupt practices which have been exposed during recent months and effective policy and institutional reforms would be put in place to prevent recurrence."

Congratulating new President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he said: "The Philippines continues to move forward in its efforts to combat the pervasive corruption in the country."

In Washington, the International Monetary Fund on Tuesday congratulated Ms Macapagal and said it was encouraged by the initial policy announcements of the new administration.

"IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler has sent a letter congratulating the new president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and the Filipino people on the peaceful transition, which offers much hope for the future," IMF Deputy Managing Director Eduardo Aninat said in a statement.

Arroyo was sworn in on Saturday after the Supreme Court stripped disgraced Joseph Estrada of his office. His administration collapsed under massive street protests, which erupted after Estrada's Senate impeachment trial on charges of corruption collapsed earlier last week.

"As a partner of the Philippines for so many years, the World Bank hopes that the uncertainty of recent months, culminating in this peaceful transition, can now give way to a period of stability and shared prosperity, so that the country can focus its efforts on poverty reduction," the statement said.

IMF's Aninat said the Fund would work closely with Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

"The fund notes with satisfaction the positive market reaction to the first policy announcements by the new authorities, which are very encouraging," Aninat said.

Ms Macapagal has stated that economic reform, enhancing transparency and strengthening the rule of law will be among her most important priorities.

"We continue to look forward to a sustained recovery of confidence that will allow the Philippine economy to grow rapidly and thus help in a determined effort to reduce poverty," Aninat added.

Last month, an IMF official said the political scandals enveloping Estrada were deepening economic uncertainty in the country. The Philippine peso tumbled 9.5 percent in the first 18 days of the year.

The peso rallied in recent days, gaining 10.23 percent against the US dollar since last Thursday. The Philippines' PSE Composite Index rallied yesterday, gaining a record 18 percent.

The index retained most of that gain today, though it fell 2.7 percent to 1662.30.

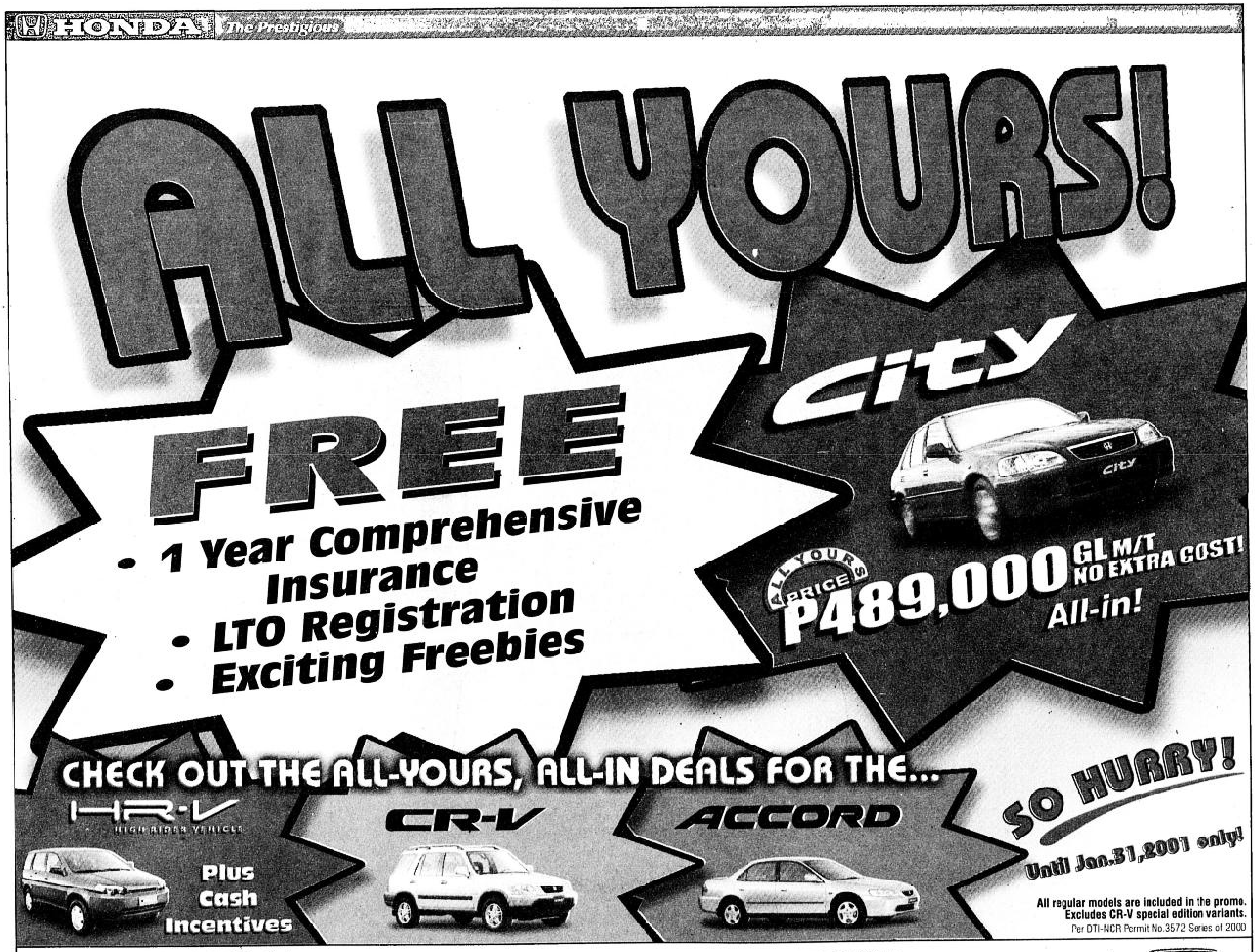
Meantime, Buenaventura said yesterday its policy-making Monetary Board was likely to cut benchmark rates by 50 basis points this week, but further reductions should wait for the outcome of the US Federal Reserve's FOMC meeting.

Owing to the return of stability in the peso, Buenaventura told Reuters Financial Television that "there's no reason why we cannot bring it back by another 50 basis points" this week.

Whether the central bank can cut an additional 100 basis points would depend on the Fed's FOMC meeting, he added.

The overnight borrowing rate now stands at 12.5 percent and the lending rate at 14.75 percent. The Monetary Board is scheduled to meet today.

Reuters, Bloomberg



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Gloria-ta mall

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT'S business as usual. The peso tumbles again. Analysts nag about the budget deficit, scaring everybody. Foreigners condemn our economic structure like they're building inspectors. As a bonus, the government is tangled up in politics. *Kung hei fat choi*!

And all those, mind you, as we go into only the fourth day in power of the newly installed administration of acting President Gloria Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo; only four days out of the possible 3,500 days of her in power! Or the next 10 years!

In the short term, therefore, tremendous pressure falls on this potentially long-term regime. So, what's up, Nap? After all, the handlers of Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo never fail to note her qualification as a, er, "trained" economist.

That doesn't refer to her mode of transportation. I suppose, like most economists and public officials, she is "motored" around and not "trained." It's just that economics was her field of training. Meaning, she actually went to school and graduated.

* * *

MASQUERADING as economic policies so far from the "trained" economist, however, are a couple of things. These are: one, "transparency," and, two, a "level playing field." I'm not saying that nothing changed, but, as you can see, both are recycled items.

Transparency, as a policy in making decisions, initially raced to popularity during the time of Tita Cory. At that time, every other sentence in every other speech of every other official was peppered with the word "transparency." As it turned out, that regime was as transparent as lead in an atomic fallout shelter.

Perhaps we're back to the good old days of a "level playing field" as espoused by Kuya Eddie. If the field was ever level, it was level only for the big boys. In fact, the field was so level at that time, real estate and stocks created a huge economic bubble that, upon explosion, leveled our economy to the ground.

I guess business is not really in the mood to hear motherhood statements (that is, BS) nowadays. It's more of where Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo wants to take us, and how she takes us there. What does one do to get a little direction here? A little VISION, dammit?

* * *

IN HER first media interview after she was installed into power, which was given to a talk show hostess, who, by the way, also reported on things like the existence of *aswang*, Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo most of the time talked about . . . well, herself.

All right, I know that I must wait for her to complete the economic team before I can even think of asking about her program. In business, such is actually the biggest problem in a hostile takeover. Everybody is groping. There's no ready plan whatsoever.

But at least the newly installed administration already made one thing clear. Well, there was confusion about what to call Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo's husband, a certain Juan Miguel. It's such a big problem of national concern that it ought to be resolved now.

Some call him "First Husband." Others, however, claim that the term may connote there's a "second" husband. What about "First Gentleman" then? But there's no first "boorishman," is there? Here's his choice: Just call me "Mike." Cute!

* * *

ALL RIGHT, that's settled then. We refer to him as Just Call Me Mike. But there's another big problem: What do we call Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo? Madam President? Mrs. President? Or acting President? Maybe we should wait for the Supreme Court's ruling.

But there's no truth to rumors the mall at the Ayala Center along Ayala Avenue owned by the Ayala group of the Makati Business Club fame was named after Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo. That's not Gloria, you dummy, that's Glorietta.

Sure, the suffix "etta"—as interpreted by linguists hired by Makati's shadow mayor, Jejomar Binay, to do battle with anti-Wrist Band groups—connotes "little." Put at the end of "Glori" together they may mean "little Gloria." But this was just an opinion.

* * *

THE FOLLOWING item is so earth-shaking it has to be reported in all the major dailies. The First "Just Call Me Mike" Gentleman, being a lawyer, said he wanted to help the group VACC, or the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption. Thus, he becomes a corruption "watcher." Not, as per the latest text messages, the "watchee"?

If it's any indication, anyway, when Arroyo the Husband was not yet known as "Just Call Me Mike," he already pulled a fast one. It was there at the Edsa Shrine last Saturday, as "people power" raged, leading eventually to the installation of Macapagal "hyphen" Arroyo into power.

The preparation was done for her to take an oath. She even asked Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to administer it. The problem was, up to the last minute, there was no official word from the Palace about the resignation of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. Apparently, there was a question on the legality of her taking the oath.

What did Just Call Me Mike do? Well, he called a television station to announce that Wrist Band already resigned. He said he got it from THREE sources. "Who were they?" the studio asked. Even though he was not a newsman, Just Call Me Mike invoked his right not to reveal his sources. The oathtaking took place. That's the corruption watcher?

SMC, Coca-Cola Co. near joint venture deal worth $1B

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SAN Miguel Corp. and Coca-Cola Co. of the US are on the verge of signing a $1-billion joint venture deal which would hand back the control of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. to the Philippine beer and food giant from ailing Coca-Cola Amatil of Australia.

Based on a report by Merrill Lynch Securities, the San Miguel-Coca-Cola Co. joint venture would take over Coke Philippines from Amatil which has struggled to keep the local unit running smoothly since it took over in 1997.

Under a compromise agreement, San Miguel would swap its entire 21-percent stake in Amatil for a 60-percent stake in Coke Philippines while Coca-Cola Co. would swap its 14-percent interest (out of its 38 percent holdings) in Amatil for a 40-percent sake in the local bottler. These shares, amounting to A$1.9 billion, would be retired.

San Miguel had earlier batted for a 70-percent share in Coke Philippines but Amatil balked at this offer which would peg the local bottler's value at A$1.6 billion or 24 percent below its net book value of A$2.1 billion.

In exchange for a lower stake in the joint venture, Coca-Cola Co. has offered to provide a discount on the royalties or cost of concentrate charged to San Miguel which would still have full operating control of the local bottler.

Merrill Lynch said San Miguel could re-invest the discount into improving its operations in order to improve volume.

Merrill Lynch dubbed the deal a "win-win" for the three parties: San Miguel would regain control of Coke Philippines; Coke Amatil would finally solve the shares overhang, strike off the problematic Philippine operations from its portfolio, and the retirement of shares would enhance earnings per share, and Coca-Cola Co. would continue to maintain a strategic stake in Coke Philippines (the Philippines is Coke's eighth-largest market in the world) and Amatil (which has other bottling operations in Oceania, South Korea and Indonesia).

Merrill Lynch stressed that negotiations are still continuing and the terms could still change.

Meantime, Bloomberg has quoted the Australian Financial Review as saying that Coca-Cola Amatil met Coca-Cola Co. and SMC Tuesday to try to agree on conditions of the sale of Coca-Cola Bottler. The three companies, it added, were scheduled to talk again this week to try to forge an accord.

Amatil, 21.5 percent owned by San Miguel and 37 percent owned by Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Co., said last month it was again considering the sale of the Philippine unit after rejecting an earlier joint offer from both companies. *With a report from Bloomberg*

SEC to bar 9 pre-need firms from accepting new clients

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said yesterday it would bar nine pre-need companies that failed to comply with its capital requirements from offering pre-need plans to the public.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista refused to name these companies in a news conference but she told reporters that the commission was already set to issue an order to prevent them from taking in new customers.

Bautista said these companies failed to meet the SEC's requirement that their paid-up capital should be at least P26 million. The commission is raising this ceiling to P100 million by August this year.

Bautista said four of the nine pre-need companies had asked the SEC for a dealership license while five were renewing their license. She said all these requests had already been rejected.

Bautista said the SEC would prevent from taking in new customers companies that would fail to raise their paid-up capital to P100 million by August this year.

The country has 56 active pre-need companies. Only eight have a paid-up capital of P100 million while four have submitted capital build-up plans. The rest have yet to inform the SEC how they plan to raise their capital to P100 million by August. Bautista said the SEC would compel those still without a capital build-up plan to submit one by the last week of March.

Several pre-need companies have ended in bankruptcy due to bad trust fund investments and failed projects.

The SEC chief said she would look into the possibility of allowing the automatic approval within 30 days of pre-need companies' requests to issue new plans.

Bautista said only pre-need companies that would submit complete applications and documents, including an actuarial certification, and those without trust fund deficiencies would qualify for the 30-day automatic plan approval program.

Congress is currently deliberating on a "pre-need code" for the pre-need industry.

Bautista said the House committee on banks and other financial institutions was inclined to keep regulatory authority over the industry with the SEC instead of transferring it to the Insurance Commission.

Nieto group to sell 17.7% stake in ETPI

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE GROUP of Manuel H. Nieto Jr. will soon sell its remaining 17.7-percent stake in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. to the local partner of Australian Gigahertz Network Pty. Ltd.

A source said the Nieto group made the offer to AGN's partner so that the Australian firm could take over control of the company.

In December last year, the Nieto group, through Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc., finalized the transfer of its 40-percent stake in ETPI to AGN. With the eventual transfer of the remaining 17.7-percent stake of Aeorocom to the local partner of AGN, the Australian firm would gain the majority control.

The source expects the deal to be completed within 60 days from the date of the offer. However, he did not divulge Aerocom's selling price for ETPI shares.

By tapping a local partner, AGN would be able to skirt a legal constraint that limits foreign ownership in a public utility company to only 40 percent.

Pablo Lobregat, Aerocom president and spokesperson of Nieto, was unavailable for comment yesterday.

However, in an earlier interview, he said Aerocom would be willing to divest from ETPI provided it could find the right buyer at the right price.

Last June 30, Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. announced that it signed a deal with Cable and Wireless for the acquisition of the C&W's 40-percent stake in ETPI for $18 million.

However, Nieto, being a 17.7-percent stakeholder of ETPI, exercised his right of first refusal and matched Digitel's offer.

AGN, which replaced Cable & Wireless as ETPI's foreign partner, offered $21 million, or 16.67-percent more than Digitel's offer, for the ETPI stake.

Budget deficit seen to hit ₱190B this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday said this year's budget deficit was expected to P190 billion this year due to some P70 billion in payables left behind by the previous administration.

"I am sad for the country because of the huge deficit and I don't know where we will get the money," said Romulo who has yet to be sworn into office.

The Estrada administration, said Romulo, left P70 billion in obligations that it should have settled last year. He said the budget gap last year should have been P206.1 billion, instead of only P136.1 billion, to reflect the debts.

The unpaid obligations include salaries of government employees and debts to contractors commissioned for various projects. When the Estrada administration took over, it claimed that it had inherited P80 billion in debts.

"We are paying a terrible penalty for the two and a half years," said Romulo.

The new finance chief said he had ordered his people to itemize the P70 billion in payables.

Still, Romulo said he was hoping to achieve a balanced budget by 2004, a year before the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo ends.

The Estrada administration had aspired to achieve a balanced budget by year 2003. However, from 1998 to year 2000, the deficit even swelled.

Romulo said that as part of efforts to raise revenues, the new government would pursue the collection of unpaid taxes particularly of Estrada associates, including Lucio Tan.

Tan's company, Fortune Tobacco, was charged by the Ramos administration of non-payment of more than P25 billion in taxes.

The huge deficit last year was caused by poor revenue collection, particularly of the Bureau of Internal Revenue whose collections fell short of the target by more than P40 billion.

Proceeds from the privatization program of the government hit only P5 billion, which was way below the projected P22 billion.

This year, the BIR is expecting to collect P408 billion in taxes.

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has confirmed an INQUIRER report that there is an ongoing discussion between **ePLDT Inc.** and a company that owns a chain of Internet cafés.

* * *

JOSE Camus of **Gotesco Land Inc.** resigned as director of the company effective Jan. 31 this year.

* * *

ITOGON Suyok Mines Inc. retrenched four employees effective Jan. 18 this year in addition to 49 laid off on Jan. 3 this year.

* * *

THE CHANGE in the stock trading symbol of **Selecta Dairy Products Inc.** from "SLT" to "STAR" and in its sector from food, beverage and tobacco to communication will be reflected in the Philippine Stock Exchange's computer system on Friday.

* * *

APC Group Inc. said it was not aware of any information that would explain why its share prices fell 38.89 percent on Monday. The company proposed the immediate lifting of the trading halt of APC shares.

* * *

EBECOM Holdings Inc. said it was unaware of any information, event or transaction that caused its share prices to rise by 50 percent on Tuesday.

* * *

REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp. acquired on Tuesday some 110,000 of its own shares at 80 centavos each.

* * *

IONICS Circuits Inc. has informed the exchange that a fire hit Plant I of **Ionics EMS Inc.** on Tuesday. Offices affected will be temporarily held at the Ionics EMS Plant IV.

* * *

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. has no knowledge of any information that may have affected the value and trading of its shares on Tuesday. *Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, January 24, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	2,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68.5	71	68.5	70	260,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	57.5	57.5	57	57	129,300
First E-Bank Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	235	238	234	238	65,250
Philippine National Bank	34	34.5	33	33	169,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	32	32	32	32	300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.72	1.72	190,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1270	1280	1270	1280	3,060
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1100	1060	1060	7,690
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	48	49.5	48	49.5	104,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.65	0.73	0.65	0.67	7,280,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	800	790	790	8,320
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.065	0.06	0.065	52,700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,000
Piltel	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	30,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	925	925	905	905	123,590
Ivantage Corp.	1	1.12	1	1.06	3,310,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.0575	0.065	0.0575	0.065	611,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	57	57	55	55	10,100
Manila Electric Co. B	59.5	60	58.5	59	3,073,200
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.88	1.74	1.82	34,193,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	110,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	0.95	1.12	0.95	1.04	11,730,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	17,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.22	330,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.53	4,550,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.69	0.8	0.69	0.8	1,530,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	20,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	12,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	834,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	35	36	35	35.5	361,900
RFM Corp.	1	1.06	1	1.04	1,350,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49.5	50	49	50	98,600
San Miguel Corp. B	58.5	58.5	57.5	58	507,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	220,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	230,000
Ayala Corp.	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.5	7,730,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.35	0.35	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	20,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	13	13	12.5	12.75	136,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1	1.08	1	1.02	850,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	2,680,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	7,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.1	3.2	3	3.05	6,203,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.21	320,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.5	0.42	0.43	4,650,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.17	0.18	23,820,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.06	0.0675	0.06	0.06	10,100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1.12	1	1	11,540,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2.12	2.9	1.96	2.9	27,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22	23.5	22	23.5	168,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.36	0.43	7,880,000
Ionics Inc.	15	15	15	15	18,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.6	1,197,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	130,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	4,500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.87	0.94	0.86	0.9	39,720,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.16	0.16	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.66	0.68	0.64	0.64	12,490,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.56	0.65	0.56	0.6	12,140,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.38	20,990,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.38	0.38	410,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.27	0.27	5,120,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.76	0.7	0.7	300,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	3,000
Music Corporation	3.45	3.55	3.3	3.4	883,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.16	0.175	0.15	0.155	5,930,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	7	7	7	7	11,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.94	0.9	0.94	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.6	8.9	8.5	8.9	326,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	5,680,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.66	0.48	0.65	17,940,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.51	3,140,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.32	0.27	0.3	1,960,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	48	49	48	48.5	400,600
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	565	565	565	565	120
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.5	96,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	800	800	800	800	3,470
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	11	10.5	10.5	563,000
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	265,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	220	220	220	220	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	7.2	6.8	6.9	22,653,000
Araneta Properties, Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.4	370,000
Cityland Development Corp	3	3	3	3	6,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.41	520,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.36	57,840,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	40,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.53	0.48	0.5	22,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.14	2.34	2.12	2.12	27,858,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.04	0.0525	0.04	0.0525	3,100,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	2,300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.19	1,870,000
City & Land Developers	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	3,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.52	0.45	0.45	9,970,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.43	0.43	60,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.15	0.19	0.15	0.155	3,350,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.14	2.14	310,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.7	6.7	12,471,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.125	23,160,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.0065	0.008	0.0065	0.0075	53,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0065	0.0085	0.0065	0.0085	34,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0055	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	96,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.019	0.021	0.018	0.019	11,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	138,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	105,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	179,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.027	0.032	0.026	0.029	63,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	51,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	26,000,000
Pacifica	0.019	0.02	0.018	0.019	188,200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.1	0.13	0.1	0.115	9,700,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	900,000

CURRENCIES

Jan. 24, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.066439	1.000000	49.7500
Japan	Yen	0.009116	0.008548	0.4253
United Kingdom	Pound	1.568945	1.471200	73.1922
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136739	0.128220	6.3789
Switzerland	Franc	0.652895	0.612220	30.4579
Canada	Dollar	0.706111	0.662120	32.9405
Singapore	Dollar	0.612720	0.574548	28.5838
Australia	Dollar	0.590074	0.553312	27.5273
Bahrain	Dinar	2.828902	2.652661	131.9699
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.284346	0.266631	13.2649
Brunei	Dollar	0.612439	0.574284	28.5706
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000107	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024789	0.023245	1.1564
UAE	Dirham	0.290369	0.272279	13.5459
Korea	Won	0.000837	0.000785	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.937790	46.6506
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.479438	23.8520
France	Franc	0.152450	0.142951	7.1118
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.425510	21.1691
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.068145	3.3902
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023245	1.1564
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000484	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.157710	7.8461
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004677	0.2327
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005636	0.2804
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.023245	1.1564
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.190633	59.2340

Stocks rise

(From page B1)

The Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index rose 3.13, or 0.2 percent, to 1,665.43, after rising as much as 2 percent. Of stocks that traded on the exchange, advancing shares outnumbered decliners 78 to 31, with 26 unchanged. More than P1.1 billion in stock changed hands, less than half of yesterday's turnover.

"The market is factoring a potential lowering of interest rates," said Spencer Yap, an analyst at BPI Securities Corp. "The Federal Reserve may cut (rates), and it may have a domino effect" on other countries as they consider trimming borrowing costs.

The central bank, which has been cutting interest rates since December, may have more leeway to lower borrowing costs tomorrow at its policy board meeting, after the peso gained 14 percent from a record low last week. The peso rallied after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in Saturday to replace Joseph Estrada, who left the presidential palace amid allegations of corruption.

Bloomberg

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PASIG

Coml Ortigas Ave Ext 492m² P15Mneg 4110381

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MAKATI

**Magallanes V P13M Pls. Call 535-8356

MANILA

**Malate Nr Vito Cruz P5M 2Stry 3br 2cg 413-4411

PASIG

**Greenwoods 204m² P5.5T Nr Club Hs 671-4421

Pasig City H/L LA-250m² P2.5M Tel# 534-6610 JoJo

QUEZON CITY

Loyola Grand Villas LA401 sqm FA 460sqm 435-0005 / 426-0835

**Matalag 600m² 2Sty Conc. Back of LTO 725-4384

Mayon St, Sta. Mesa Ht Lot with Improv. 5346610-JoJo

Greenmeadows 26M 28M 42M 50M 09177914366; 4121825

**Only P1.4M Leland Dr Novaliches 671-4421

•Pao St Sta Mesa Hts• 267m² P7.5M 4110381

Mayon St. SMH QC A-960m² 534-6610 • 818-8569 JoJo

RIZAL

3BR 214m² 2car grge San Jose Rodriguez 649-2298

FREE of Flood & Faultline Ridgemont Exec Vill P1.9M

nr Ortigas Ext CAINTA NEW FRENCH STRONG 3BR Bung 2 c'port Lot:150m² 9488240/9334971

LaColina-Antipolo 432sqm 5br 2sty 5M 0917-8143792

Cottonwood 5.5M 430sqm 09177914366; 4121825

PROVINCIAL

Over Looking Taal LotsH&L 938-7619/(0918) 505-8604

OTHER AREAS

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775/8678942

New H/L Exclsv Grandpark Vlg Agui. H-way Cavite Nr Makro Security/Clubhs/Pool 4BR 3TB P2.1M&Term Neg. •7242020• •7263805• DETH/REGINA•

LOT

MANILA

**Sta Cruz 270m² cor 7.5M Nr Laguna Hse 413-4411

**UST For Dormitory 900m² Nr. Gelinos VLot 413-4411

Nr. UST 325 sqm 7403162

MANDALUYONG

9-de Pebrero near Shaw A-150m² T#534-6610 JoJo

PASIG

**Pasig Comm'l Lot Nr Shaw 924 & 1100 P30T/m² 7232391

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS QC P6,700/SQM OFC 242-1521

180 SQM GOWILL HOMES 740-31-52

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

NEW MANILA 2000 sqm 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

Nr Batasan 581m² P4T/m² 3720869;4542770;3720888

SAN JUAN

G'hills Anapolis V. Lot Com'l 60T/m² 870 7232391

**G'hills East V/Lot 900sqm P35/m² 723-2391

**Lit Baguio SJ 450m² Com/Res'l Use 7232391

Luna Mencias nr Araulo 715M VL 29Th/m² 4157979

North G'hills Cor 1000 6br Den Spool P39M 7232391

PROVINCIAL

Babag Lapu-Lapu City 3068m² P1500/m² Neg 053-3342020 Rebecca 0917-4795112 Raquel

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MAKATI

3 SALCEDO 3BR 2CG 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

**Asia Tower Nr Gbelt 2br Sale/Rent 535-8356

**Cityland Pasong Tamo Studio P880T 535-8356

**Le Domaine 2br 2tb 1pkg R/S Salcedo V 535-8356

PPII Studio Sale or Rent 09177914366; 4121825

Parc Regent 3BR 155m² 7M or 60T 09177914366; 4121825

Easton 2-3BR Sale or Rent 09177914366; 4121825

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MANILA

**Pasay FA158m² New 5.5M Nr Zamora 4br 413-4411

MANDALUYONG

Pioneer Hland 1BR 2.8M 15T 09177914366;4121825

**Pioneer Highlands Studio 31m² P2M 671-4421

**Pioneer Highlands 2br 1cg P3.3M 671-4421

Various Wack Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 JoJo

**Wack Twin 3br FF 1br Condo 7232391

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B/New TH 2 stry/3BR/1CG 60-75m²P1.9M 4157979

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QUEZON CITY

**Blueridge Bnew Nr C5 3br 2tb P6.5M 671-4421

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SAN JUAN

**G'hills Condo 1br FA58 P3M 723-2391

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

SAN JUAN

**G'hills Condo 3br P5.5M w/ Huge Blcony 7232391

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Notice is hereby given that printed copies of Revision Order RO 12-2000, RO 1-2001, RO 2-2001, RO 3-2001 and RO 4-2001 supplement and for reference containing lists of transaction values of goods generally described as:

FLOUR BAG, AROMATICS, POLYMERS, COTTON TERRY FACE TOWEL, PALM OIL, STEEL COILS, TINPLATES

and whose details are verifiable in the VCD as well as the revision order pages, are available to all interested parties at the Bureau of Customs Printing Office, Office of the Commissioner, Port Area Manila. For other information, the public may get in touch with the Valuation and Classification Division, telephone number 527-4549.

January 24, 2001, Manila, Philippines.

FOR THE COMMISSIONER:

(Sgd.) **TITUS B. VILLANUEVA**
Deputy Commissioner
For Assessment and Operation Group

(PDI – Jan. 25, 2001)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to notify the public that
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RECEIPTS
nos. **07303 TO 07306** have been declared lost on **October 30, 2000.**
All transactions covered by these documents from said date shall not be honored by
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For more information, please call or see us at 10/F Tower II,
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NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

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Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER to the HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who, in all instances of my life, is with me. I, in this dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my love ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen.

Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I, never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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DR. PEDRO C. BRAGANZA, JR.

World War II Veteran and Public Servant

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 24, 2001
at the age of 89.

A loving husband to Purita Ramos Agsalud Braganza.
A beloved father to his son Nani Braganza
and daughter Ella Braganza.

A wonderful Lolo...
To his grandchildren
Carlo and Lean.

We, his family and all his relatives and friends request those whose lives have been touched by our beloved *Doc* to pray for the repose of his soul as he is born to Eternal Life.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel,
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish,
New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation date to be announced later.

ATTY. LUIS EVANGELISTA SERAFICA

Former Municipal Councilor of Mangaldan
and
Provincial Board Member of Pangasinan

Peacefully joined our Creator on January 19, 2001 at the age of 64.

He is survived by his wife **Paz Generosa-Serafica** and his bereaved children and their spouses **Chito** and **Joy**, **Raul** and **Minnie**, **Nonong** and **Melba**, **Dennis** (†), **Sammy** and **Beth**, **Bert** and **Cecille**, **Victor**, **Lally**, **Tot**; his grandchildren **Justin**, **John Paul**, **Christian**, **Jeff**, **Calvin**, **Joshua**, **Luigi**, and **Danise**; and his siblings and their spouses **Leonora** (†) and **Pedro, Jr.** (†), **Cipriano, Jr.** (†), **Benigno** and **Consuelo**, **Felicisima C.**, **Rodolfo** and **Jovita**.

His remains lie in state at the family residence Frianeza Street, Mangaldan, Pangasinan.

Holy Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Church at 10:30 AM.

Interment will take place thereafter at Mangaldan Roman Catholic Cemetery.

In Loving Memory
of

EDITHA MONASTERIO PULIDO

who was called to eternal rest on January 25, 1988.

The EDITHA MONASTERIO PULIDO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC. and her family request the pious reader to pray for her eternal repose.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even if he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
JOHN 11:25-26

Maj. Gen. Antonio V. de Veyra (Ret.)

of
Tanauan, Leyte
(Former Deputy Chief of Staff, PMA Class of 1935)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 8, 2001 in Glendale, California, USA.

His bereaved wife **Victoria Fargas de Veyra**; children and children-in-law **Bob & Florence Custodio**, **Tito** (✝), **Linda & Mike Goco**, **Monette & Joey Yarisantos** (✝), **Junie & Annie dela Rosa**, and **Tito & Karleen Wetherald**; grandchildren and grandchildren-in-law **Theresa & Clarence Guillory**, **Anna Vic**, **Didi**, **Bobby Jr. & Lynne Bautista**, **Yani & Farzam Hadi**, **Pinky & Richard Standing**, **Lee Robert**, **Anna & Reid Oshiro**, **Rica**, **Kevin**, **Colin**, **Cyril**, **Casey** and **Tony**; great grandchildren **Ritzy**, **Hannah**, **Angela**, **Aryo**, **Armina** and **Isabel**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will lie in state at Our Lady of Peace Chapel, JUSMAG Area, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City on Thursday, January 25, 2001.

Necrological services will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. at the New St. Michael Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 7:00 p.m. requiem Mass.

Interment will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2001 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, after the 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at the New St. Michael Chapel.

Finally, my Lord and my God, let me be faithful in my commitment and dedication to your will, faithful until the end.

Let "faithfulness" be the summary of my days and my nights.

Let the inscription on my tombstone read... PIETA.

PROSPERO "Piring" RIVERA

of Angeles City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 22, 2001
at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife **Ludy**; his loving children **Marissa** and **Lito Hallare**, **Dotee** and **Ramon Sanchez**, **Reden** and **May**, **Toyer** and **Gail**, **Pocca** and **Beth**, **Dowee** and **Dodo Daquial**, **Cathy** and **Curve Kwancharoen**, **Dixie** and **Edith**.

Grandchildren **Danielle Ma**, **Nina Gabrielle**, **Bojit** and **Bonike**, **Raffie**, **Noykie** and **Chookie**, **Alexi**, **Ivan** and **Geo**, **Nikko** and **Colo**; sisters **Tita de Guzman** and **Gloria**; brothers **Anding**, **Bing**, and **Rene**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at The House of Many Mansions, along McArthur Hi-way (near La Pieta Memorial Park) Angeles City.

On January 27, 2001 at 9:00 a.m., there will be a funeral Mass at the Carmelite Monastery, Angeles City.

Interment will be at the La Pieta Memorial Park.

DR. FAUSTINO A. NUFABLE

Loving father and grandfather.
Born April 15, 1910, in Luna, La Union.
Passed away January 7, 2001 in Los Angeles, California.
Funeral services held January 13 at
St. Irenaeus Catholic Church in Cypress, California.
Burial immediately followed at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Cypress, California.

ATTY. ANTONIO DOLLENTAS DUGAN

of Sorsogon, Sorsogon
Born November 26, 1936
Peacefully joined his Creator on January 23, 2001.

His mother **Charing**; wife **Bella Escultura**; children **Vicvic** and **Jun Cabel**; **Beann** and **Fern Calingin**; **Dixie**, **Bang** and **Raniel**, **Janke**, **Tonette**, **Kuki**; grandchildren **Paopao**, **Andrian**, **Claro**, **Gat**, **Philipe**; brothers, sister, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Licup Hall, St. Peter and Paul Cathedral Sorsogon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at Sorsogon Memorial Garden after the 2:00 o'clock p.m. Mass at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Sorsogon City.

CARD OF THANKS

Candelaria Salamat Mendoza, *widow of Engr. Ricardo Mendoza Sr. of San Mateo, Rizal peacefully joined the Creator on December 20, 2000 at the age of 85, at the St. Victoria Hospital in Marikina City.*

Her beloved children, **Col. Ricardo Mendoza Jr.** and family, **Maura Mendoza Rodriguez** and family, **Elisa (Ely) Salamat Mendoza**, **Carmelita Mendoza Velarde** and family, brother-in-law **Jose Cruz Mendoza**, together with her great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and other relatives would like to thank everyone who condoled with them and shared their moments of grief through donations, mass cards, flowers, prayers, and attendance in the funeral ceremony.

> *"My soul finds rest to God alone;*
> *from Him comes my salvation."*
> **Psalm 62:2**

LUZ HERRERA ALMARIA

Beloved wife of the late **Hermenegildo V. Almaria, Sr.**

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 22, 2001
at the age of 88.

Her loving children **Albert** and **Bess**, **Baby** and **Charlie**, **Boy** and **Dinah**; grandchildren **Jeng-Jeng** and **Josan**, **Maricris** and **Ronnie**, **Jonathan**, **Alfred**, **An-an**, **Che-che**, **Shaun** and **Keith**; great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Chapel, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 27, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

> *"Come to me, all you who are weary and*
> *burdened, and I will give you rest."*
> **Matthew 11:28**

Atty. Plaridel "Nene" A. Severino

of Scarborough, Ontario and Silay City

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on January 21, 2001.

His wife **Ofelia (Jereza)**; children and spouses **Eric & Tess**, **Leif & Nanette**, **Olga**, **Hans** and **Helene**, and **Gina**; only sister **Patria**; grandchildren **Nicole**, **Valerie**, **Mark Neil**, **Stephanie**, **Marcel**, **Hans Jr.**, **Amy**, **Patricia** and **Mark Dominic**; nephews and nieces, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

In keeping with his wishes, his remains will be cremated in Ontario and the ashes will be buried in Lasting Peace Memorial Park, Silay City.

In Loving Memory
on the 20th Death Anniversary of

MARIANO B. PEÑAFLORIDA

who passed away on 26 January 1981

Masses will be offered Friday, 26 January 2001 at the following:

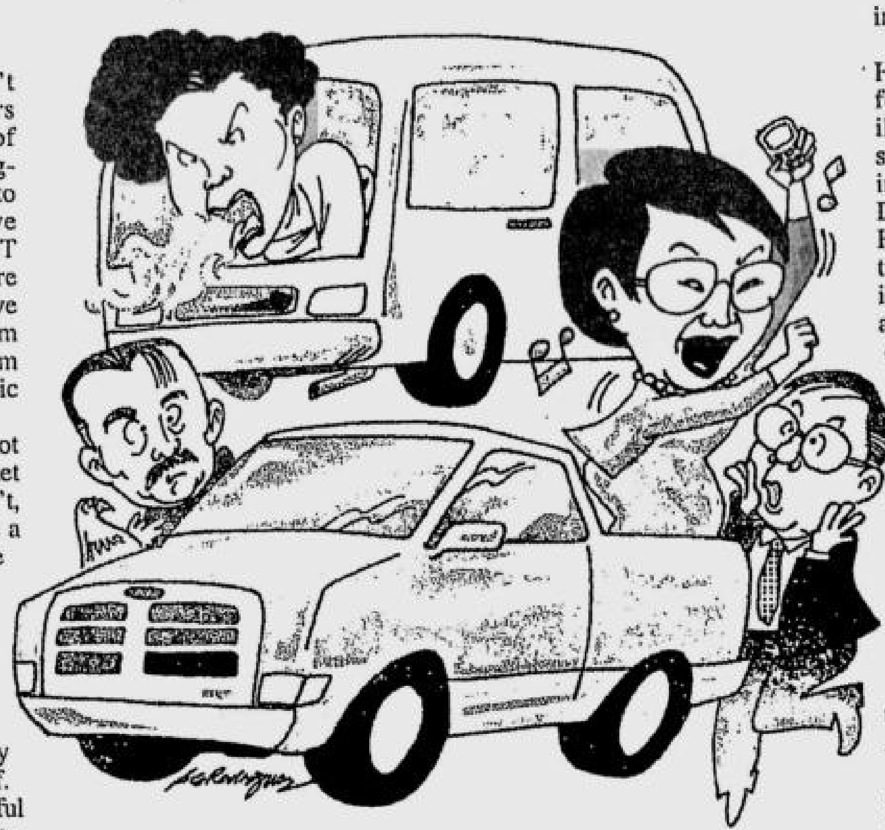
Sanctuario de San Antonio *Forbes Park*	12:15 noon
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills*	7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori *Magallanes*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love *Merville*	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *U.P.*	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church *Pototan, Iloilo*	5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church, *La Paz, Iloilo*	5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

Pickup for Tessie, van for Miriam

BY VERNON B. SARNE



ERAP had his Jeep. Why can't senators—specifically, senators who have an abnormal fear of envelopes—have their own signature vehicles that they can use to get around? Honestly, we have absolutely no idea which exotic GT cars or pricey sport-utilities are parked inside their garages. But we have an idea which car each of them should be riding in. Cars that fit them just as perfectly as the psychedelic Shaguar suits Austin Powers.

Most of these vehicles are not available locally. The gray market might have them, but even if it didn't, procuring the vehicles should be a piece of cake for our 11 favorite senators. Price should be no object as well. Some of the senators are known to rake in huge sums in *balato* or from cockfighting. Following then is the list of vehicles we strongly recommend for their day-to-day mobility. Allow us to roll them off.

Let's begin with the most graceful of them all, Tessie Aquino-Oreta. She needs a vehicle that will not impede her penchant for dancing. Only a pickup can satisfy this need. She can get jiggy with a dance pad on the cargo bed of a, say, Dodge Dakota Quad Gab. We single out the Dakota Quad Cab because it also happens to be the roomiest in its class. We suggest heavily tinted windows for the occupant to escape mob attention.

For Miriam Defensor-Santiago (oh, God, spare us from libel suits), we propose the use of a white utility van. A Mitsubishi L300, to be exact. Yes, the van widely employed by hospitals as an ambulance. It would be nice if the manufacturer could throw in a certain kind of jacket to complement the seatbelts.

The Ford Econoline—or the Chateau Wagon, as it is known here—should be a perfect match for Nikki Coseteng when she decides to revive her career as a basketball team manager. A 15-passenger variant could easily seat the players, the coaching staff, and the heavily made-up manager. The colossal van could also double as a dressing room for location shootings should Coseteng pursue a career in show business.

Meanwhile, we can't imagine a more appropriate car for Ramon Revilla than the Mercedes-Benz SLK roadster. With the top down, the SLK would give other motorists a chance to identify its occupant from a hundred meters away and hence keep their distance accordingly—lest they dent the Benz and see three-pointed stars not on the SLK's grille but in their subconscious courtesy of Revilla's punching power. A roofless automobile is also very ideal for fighting cocks, which badly need the rays of the sun to help keep them in shape.

Some people we called upon to help us with the choice of vehicles suggested an elegant black hearse for Juan Ponce Enrile. But let's be a little kinder to the man who consistently allies himself with corrupt chief executives. We put forth a black Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph for Johnny. With its old-fashioned elegance, this limo is clearly the vehicle to effectively rub in the concept of mortality to septuagenarians who live as though they still have a good five decades in their pocket.

We recommend the AM General Hummer H1 to Gringo Honasan, the former Army colonel who has illusions he was a revolutionary soldier and that he was instrumental in the success of People Power 1. Designed to military specs, the Humvee should fuel the hallucinations of this PMA alumnus that he is a warrior of and for the people, and give him a semblance of valor despite his ridiculous allegiance to Enrile.

For Tito Sotto, how about the Volkswagen New Beetle? The bug is arguably the funniest-looking car in terms of its natural ability to make onlookers grin and sometimes even laugh. There is no better car for Sotto to drive to the "Eat Bulaga" studio should he decide to rejoin brother Vic and Joey De Leon.

John Osmeña should drive no less than the Toyota Echo. Very feminine. And has excellent headroom.

We wanted to suggest a very sporty Ferrari to Robert Jaworski, he with the athletic looks and dapper suits. But after witnessing how he almost got beaten up by an angry mob last week at the Edsa Shrine, we figured a bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburban would be a wiser choice.

Finally, we're not sure if any Japanese, American, or European carmaker can assemble the mode of transport that we have in mind for the pair of Blas Ople and Kit Tatad. We're thinking of a time machine. DeLorean provided Michael J. Fox with a car that sent him back to the past, but that was in the movies. We beg anyone who has an actual blueprint for a working time machine to irreversibly send the duo of Ople and Tatad back to the '70s, when they were aiding Ferdinand Marcos establish his dictatorial reign. Anyone, please?

NISSAN Frontier

Nissan Frontier holds No. 1 post

NISSAN Frontier powers its way to the top spot as the year 2000 ends based on reports submitted by members of the Truck Manufacturer's Association. Frontier pickups continue to achieve market leadership as it dominated sales in the double cab compact pickup segment with an impressive 30.4-percent market share and a combined sales of 2,326 units for the 4x2 and 4x4 categories by the end of the year 2000. It has outpaced Isuzu which holds a 22.9-percent share of the said market segment and total sales of 1,749 units.

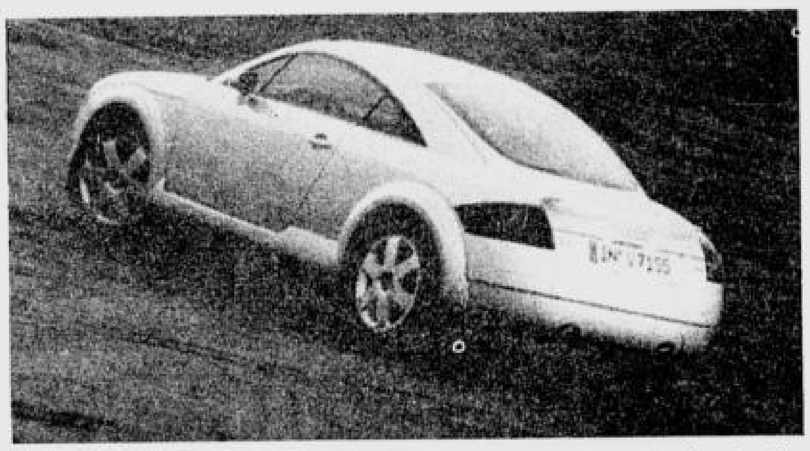
The Frontier pickup maintains its assurance of power, styling and convenience as it likewise lays claim to the No. 1 title in the 4x2 double cab compact pickup category with a market share of 33 percent with 1,448 units and achieved a strong second position in the 4x4 double cab compact pickup category with 878 units or a market share of 27 percent.

Equipped with the biggest engine displacement in its class (2.7-L and 3.2-L diesel), the Frontier is the only compact pickup available in both manual and automatic transmission for both 4x2 and 4x4 variants, a remarkable first in the market. It is also the most fully equipped in safety features with a driver-side airbag, zone body concept featuring both crushable and safety zones, side impact beams, front and rear seatbelts and a load sensing valve (LSV) for balanced breaking.

Indeed, the Nissan Frontier boasts of a host of features and benefits that make it the No. 1 choice in the market. It is evident that the Frontier pickup has become a dependable and popular choice because of its stylish look, ultimate safety and convenience and exceptional performance. Elevating the standards for the local compact pickup market is the reason behind the Nissan Frontier's consistent market leadership.

Still available in the market at holdover November 2000 price levels, the Nissan Frontier 4x2 standard is sold at P648,000; the 4x2 Nissan Frontier elite MT costs P704,000 and P790,000 for the automatic variant. With powerful off-road capabilities combined with car-like comfort, the 4x4 Nissan Frontier MT is priced at P950,000 while the AT variant costs P990,000. Sporting a new solarized silver color, the 4x4 Nissan Frontier Silver Edition, on the other hand, costs P1.005 million for the MT and P1.045 million for AT.

The Nissan Frontier is exclusively distributed by Universal Motors Corp., Philippine assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles.



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Experiencing F1 mania in Malaysia

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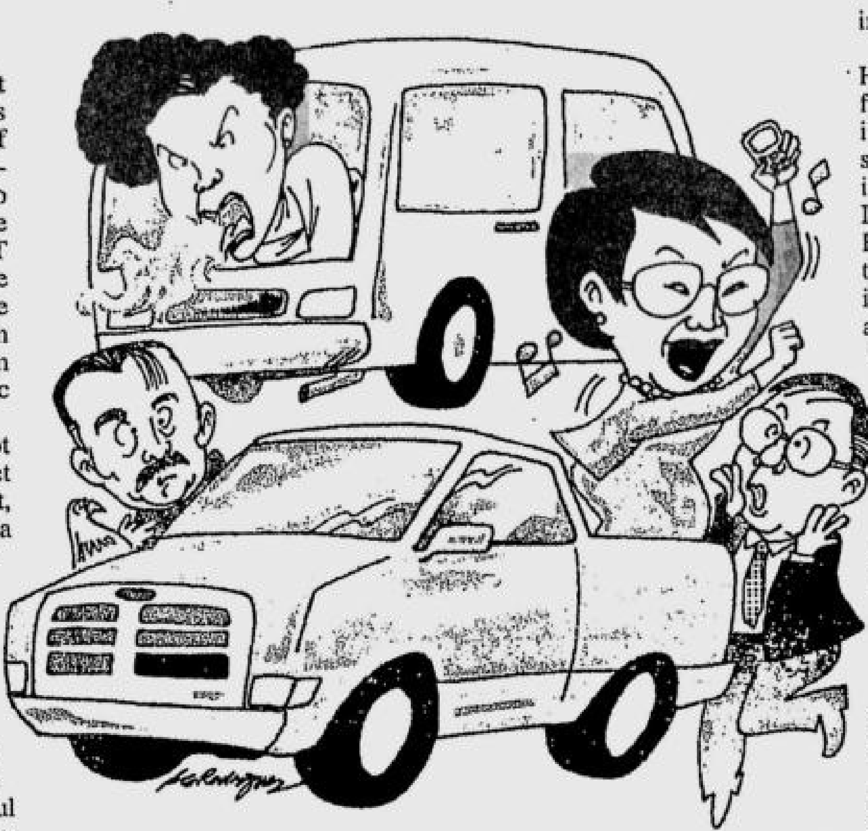
Pickup for Tessie, van for Miriam

BY VERNON B. SARNE



ERAP had his Jeep. Why can't senators—specifically, senators who have an abnormal fear of envelopes—have their own signature vehicles that they can use to get around? Honestly, we have absolutely no idea which exotic GT cars or pricey sport-utilities are parked inside their garages. But we have an idea which car each of them should be riding in. Cars that fit them just as perfectly as the psychedelic Shaguar suits Austin Powers.

Most of these vehicles are not available locally. The gray market might have them, but even if it didn't, procuring the vehicles should be a piece of cake for our 11 favorite senators. Price should be no object as well. Some of the senators are known to rake in huge sums in *balato* or from cockfighting. Following then is the list of vehicles we strongly recommend for their day-to-day mobility. Allow us to roll them off.

Let's begin with the most graceful of them all, Tessie Aquino-Oreta. She needs a vehicle that will not impede her penchant for dancing. Only a pickup can satisfy this need. She can get jiggy with a dance pad on the cargo bed of a, say, Dodge Dakota Quad Gab. We single out the Dakota Quad Cab because it also happens to be the roomiest in its class. We suggest heavily tinted windows for the occupant to escape mob attention.

For Miriam Defensor-Santiago (oh, God, spare us from libel suits), we propose the use of a white utility van. A Mitsubishi L300, to be exact. Yes, the van widely employed by hospitals as an ambulance. It would be nice if the manufacturer could throw in a certain kind of jacket to complement the seatbelts.

The Ford Econoline—or the Chateau Wagon, as it is known here—should be a perfect match for Nikki Coseteng when she decides to revive her career as a basketball team manager. A 15-passenger variant could easily seat the players, the coaching staff, and the heavily made-up manager. The colossal van could also double as a dressing room for location shootings should Coseteng pursue a career in show business.

Meanwhile, we can't imagine a more appropriate car for Ramon Revilla than the Mercedes-Benz SLK roadster. With the top down, the SLK would give other motorists a chance to identify its occupant from a hundred meters away and hence keep their distance accordingly—lest they dent the Benz and see three-pointed stars not on the SLK's grille but in their subconscious courtesy of Revilla's punching power. A roofless automobile is also very ideal for fighting cocks, which badly need the rays of the sun to help keep them in shape.

Some people we called upon to help us with the choice of vehicles suggested an elegant black hearse for Juan Ponce Enrile. But let's be a little kinder to the man who consistently allies himself with corrupt chief executives. We put forth a black Rolls-Royce Silver Seraph for Johnny. With its old-fashioned elegance, this limo is clearly the vehicle to effectively rub in the concept of mortality to septuagenarians who live as though they still have a good five decades in their pocket.

We recommend the AM General Hummer H1 to Gringo Honasan, the former Army colonel who has illusions he was a revolutionary soldier and that he was instrumental in the success of People Power 1. Designed to military specs, the Humvee should fuel the hallucinations of this PMA alumnus that he is a warrior of and for the people, and give him a semblance of valor despite his ridiculous allegiance to Enrile.

For Tito Sotto, how about the Volkswagen New Beetle? The bug is arguably the funniest-looking car in terms of its natural ability to make onlookers grin and sometimes even laugh. There is no better car for Sotto to drive to the "Eat Bulaga" studio should he decide to rejoin brother Vic and Joey De Leon.

John Osmeña should drive no less than the Toyota Echo. Very feminine. And has excellent headroom.

We wanted to suggest a very sporty Ferrari to Robert Jaworski, he with the athletic looks and dapper suits. But after witnessing how he almost got beaten up by an angry mob last week at the Edsa Shrine, we figured a bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburban would be a wiser choice.

Finally, we're not sure if any Japanese, American, or European carmaker can assemble the mode of transport that we have in mind for the pair of Blas Ople and Kit Tatad. We're thinking of a time machine. DeLorean provided Michael J. Fox with a car that sent him back to the past, but that was in the movies. We beg anyone who has an actual blueprint for a working time machine to irreversibly send the duo of Ople and Tatad back to the '70s, when they were aiding Ferdinand Marcos establish his dictatorial reign. Anyone, please?

NISSAN Frontier

Nissan Frontier holds No. 1 post

NISSAN Frontier powers its way to the top spot as the year 2000 ends based on reports submitted by members of the Truck Manufacturer's Association. Frontier pickups continue to achieve market leadership as it dominated sales in the double cab compact pickup segment with an impressive 30.4-percent market share and a combined sales of 2,326 units for the 4x2 and 4x4 categories by the end of the year 2000. It has outpaced Isuzu which holds a 22.9-percent share of the said market segment and total sales of 1,749 units.

The Frontier pickup maintains its assurance of power, styling and convenience as it likewise lays claim to the No. 1 title in the 4x2 double cab compact pickup category with a market share of 33 percent with 1,448 units and achieved a strong second position in the 4x4 double cab compact pickup category with 878 units or a market share of 27 percent.

Equipped with the biggest engine displacement in its class (2.7-L and 3.2-L diesel), the Frontier is the only compact pickup available in both manual and automatic transmission for both 4x2 and 4x4 variants, a remarkable first in the market. It is also the most fully equipped in safety features with a driver-side airbag, zone body concept featuring both crushable and safety zones, side impact beams, front and rear seatbelts and a load sensing valve (LSV) for balanced breaking.

Indeed, the Nissan Frontier boasts of a host of features and benefits that make it the No. 1 choice in the market. It is evident that the Frontier pickup has become a dependable and popular choice because of its stylish look, ultimate safety and convenience and exceptional performance. Elevating the standards for the local compact pickup market is the reason behind the Nissan Frontier's consistent market leadership.

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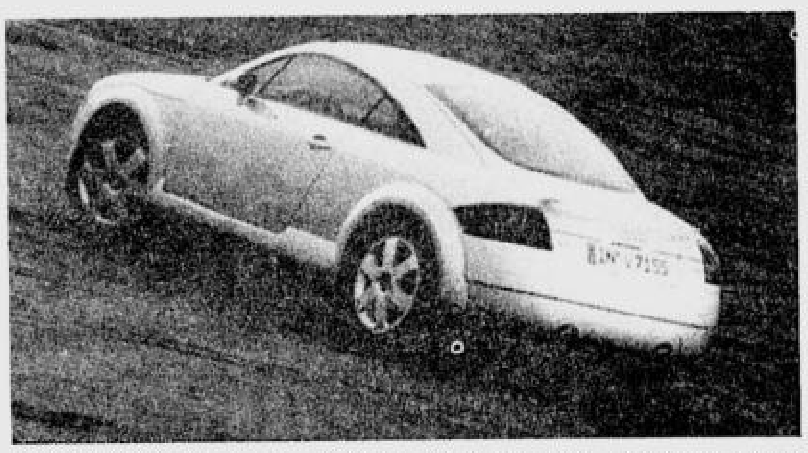

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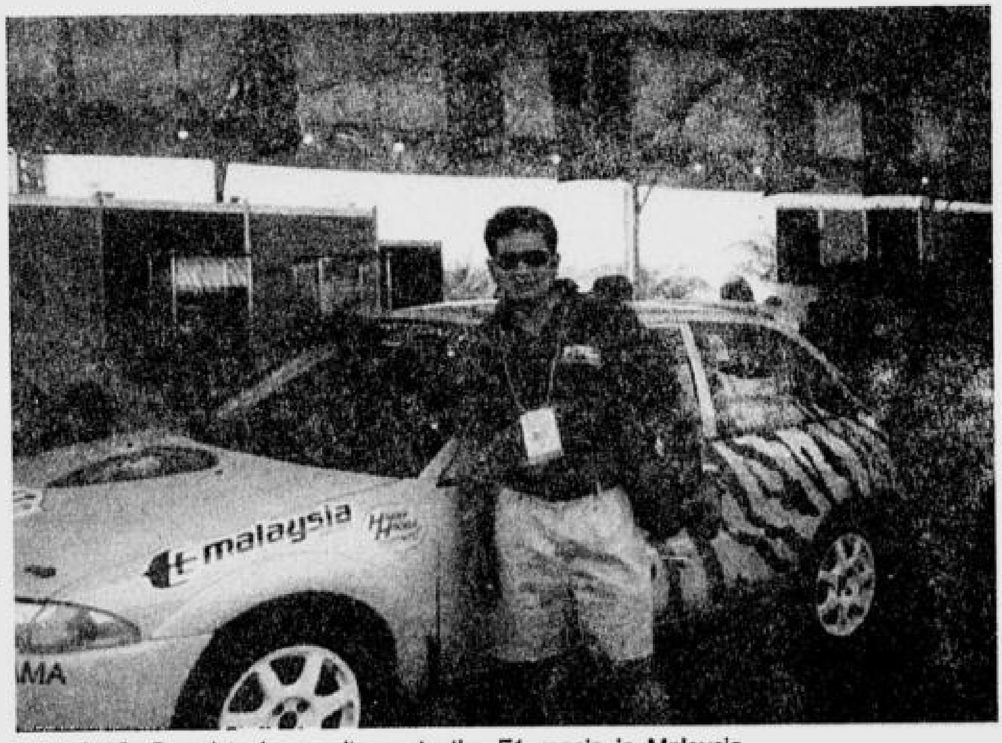

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Auto industry expects GMA to solve 'biased' implementation of MVDP

BY TESSA RELAMPAGOS SALAZAR

THE COUNTRY'S automotive industry is hoping that an economist President could finally bring justice to an industry with an "uneven" playing field and a "biased" execution of the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP).

Controversies have recently rocked the automotive industry. AUV and truck manufacturers have been slapped with an executive order increasing tariff rates. The Board of Investments had granted semi knock down (SKD) importation privileges on a giant newcomer, and last month the industry foiled the auction of secondhand vehicles in Subic.

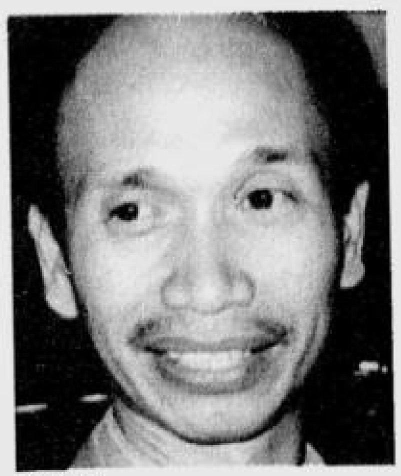
Beyond lip service

"An economist President raises the hopes that this time the government will go beyond lip service," said Melchor Dizon, first vice president for marketing of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines.

Dizon cited that a level playing field, transparency and consistency in government policies and implementation have been the demands of the auto industry even in the past administrations. He explained that economists understand these essential conditions demand "a clear understanding of why they are essential and discipline akin to ideology."

"We hope that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, through the BOI, will be able to plug the loopholes of the current program that has been creating an uneven playing field among participants," said Honda Cars Philippines' assistant vice president Arnelio Doria.

DIZON


DORIA

These loopholes have included the granting of SKD importation to new entrants in spite of excess production capacity among current players, the rationalization of taxation and tax exempt status of 4x2 luxury Sports Utility Vehicles, according to Doria.

General Motors Automobiles Philippines manager for marketing services Nicandro Mariano said that the industry expects the new government to ensure that "policies and direction do not change overnight to the benefit of the few." He said, however, that he is seeing the recovery to be slow, citing the political impact to the economy in the last four months. Mariano believes consumer confidence has returned, thus, economic recovery is underway.

Too early

Toyota Motors Philippines media relations officer Ariel de Jesus said, on the other hand, that it is too early to tell the plans of the new administration for the industry. He said the industry must be very cautious as it has yet to see signs of real economic recovery.

"The first 100 days of the new administration would play a major role in our plans and forecasts for the year. We are, however, very optimistic for the prospects of this year," De Jesus said.

"Considering our battered currency which was rated at P29.50/dollar in 1997 and P54.75/dollar a few days ago, it will take some time—longer than most people expect—for a full recovery of the economy. Remember it took two years after Edsa 1 for the auto industry to post a triple digit growth," Doria said.

Doria is hoping that President Macapagal will understand the predicament of automotive investors "who had chosen to set up multibillion-peso facilities" in the country.

Unbiased implementation

Through the BOI, he said, the industry hopes that GMA's administration will have an "unbiased implementation of the guidelines governing the Motor Vehicle Development Program for passenger cars, motorcycles, commercial vehicles and special purpose vehicles."

Doria added that with the global move toward environmental issues, the industry is also hoping the government would grant incentives to automotive products that promote environmental protection and passenger safety.

Dizon recalled then Vice President Macapagal taking the position that low-interest rates were essential to sustaining economic activity during the height of the economic and foreign exchange crisis hastened by the "Juetengate" exposé.

"The expectation that the new administration will adopt low-interest rates will boost automotive industry sales and other industries as well," Dizon said.

Isuzu's smooth brute: I can't believe it's diesel

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

"PALPITATING at the curb"—that phrase from a work of fiction read long ago comes to mind whenever I see a diesel-fed sport utility vehicle (SUV), bus or truck. Noise and vibration are inevitable characteristics of diesel-fueled commercial vehicles, with very few exceptions. One of the few exceptions is Isuzu's elegant brute, the new 4x2 Trooper LS.

The two-wheel-drive version of the Isuzu Trooper LS is such a smoothie that I couldn't believe it was a diesel the first time I drove it. As a motoring columnist, I've driven quite a few diesel vehicles, but none was as quiet as the Trooper. After the experience of driving a Trooper every day for a week, I think Isuzu has basis to claim that its advanced vibration control technology makes the Trooper's powerplant 3 to 5 decibels quieter than other diesel engines and reduces vibrations by 50 to 70 percent. Add to this the Trooper's low wind and tire noise.

But low noise and vibration aren't the Trooper's only good point. Its major advantage is its powerful 3.0-liter, 16-valve DOHC intercooled turbo-charged direct injection diesel engine capable of max horsepower of 160 PS/3,900 rpm ISO and 34 kgm /2,000 ISO max torque. To reduce the noxious fumes and particulates generated by our sulfur-rich locally formulated diesel fuel, the Trooper is equipped with a catalytic converter and EGR (exhaust gas recirculating system). The Trooper's 4JX1-TC mated to a silky 4-speed automatic transmission is potent proof why Isuzu has earned a reputation for producing superlative diesel engines.

For an SUV, the Trooper has superb road manners, thanks to a suspension system consisting of independent double wishbone arms, torsion bar and stabilizer bar up front and 4 links plus coil springs with stabilizer bar in the rear. Over potholes and rough terrain, the Trooper affords a comfortable, cushy ride and cruising on the expressway in free-flowing traffic, it is agile and handles like a sedan in lane change maneuvers, with the diesel engine remaining relatively quiet at full throttle. To boost acceleration in highway driving, the driver only has to press the "power" button located under the "winter" button below the gear shift.

The Trooper's 8.4 inches of ground clearance provide an advantage when you have to drive through a flooded street. A limited slip differential offers traction when the need arises and ventilated disc brakes front and rear plus ABS guarantee strong, sure braking. Some other safety details: headlamp wipers and washers; keyless entry with alarm system; front fog lamps; 3 pt ELR seatbelts front and rear; door beams front and rear; high-mount third brake light and rear defogger.

At the beginning of this test-drive report, I called the 4x2 Trooper an elegant brute. That's because it is a handsome, luxuriously appointed 10-seater wagon suited for city driving as well as a utilitarian workhorse offering ample carpeted cargo space with the rear seats folded.

Viewed frontally, the Trooper, because of its bulk, height and center-mounted hood scoop, looks ultra macho. A mom mobile or minivan the Trooper certainly is not. But inside, the Trooper offers the amplitude of leg room, head room and shoulder room plus all the conveniences and creature comforts a well-heeled gentleman buyer can expect from an SUV of this price (P1,399,000): beige trim and full leather seats with arm rests, leather-packed steering wheel, gear shift and hand brake, wooden paneling on the doors and glove box lid, overhead digital accessory meter (ambient temperature meter, compass, altitude, barometer), rear foot rest, 70-30 split-type 2nd row seats folding/reclining 40 degrees, secret compartment under 2nd row seat, map lights, door courtesy lamps, dome light with time delay, all-power features (door locks, windows, and antenna), auto-folding with defogger electric sideview mirrors, center console, three cupholders up front and separate aircon vents and switch for 2nd row seat passengers. The audio system is an ear-blasting Pioneer tuner/in-dash CD player with six speakers and remote control. A hard spare tire cover with latch, tow hooks front and rear, overfenders, rear bumper with step and two-tone exterior color are standard equipment.

The only thing I didn't like about the Trooper was the difficulty of closing the front doors securely. One has to tuck in the seatbelts, which tended to get in the way. But this is a minor glitch, considering the overall excellence of the 4x2 Trooper for city or long-distance driving in rough as well as fine weather.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If the president is the answer, it must have been a stupid question.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@yahoo.com

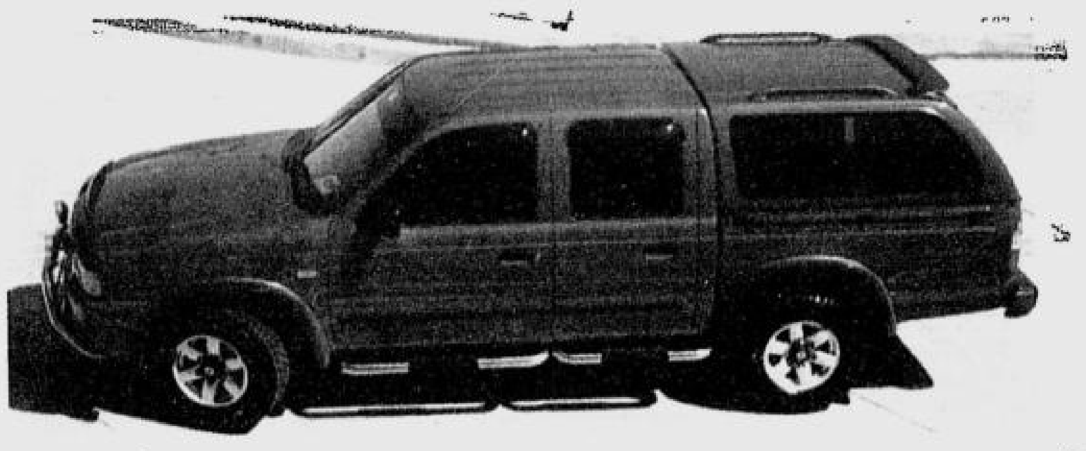
PMA supports ordinance to ban motel billboards

THE PHILIPPINE Motor Association expressed its support for an ordinance sponsored by Manila councilor Danilo Varona that would ban billboards, posters, stickers and other outdoor advertisements of motels, hotels, inns and pension houses. At present, the ads are posted on roofs, fences, walls, telephone and electric poles and trees, along sidewalks and other public places in Manila.

"Not only are these signs affecting the values of the people, especially the youth, they clutter the roads with information not relevant to traffic and thereby confuse motorists," said PMA executive director Johnny Angeles.

The PMA, the country's national auto club, also advocates the removal of all signs that are not included in the International Road Signs or the Department of Public Works and Highways' list of road signs. "What motorists need to see are only those signs that provide the names of streets, directions, warnings or rules of the road," Angeles stressed. "If Manila succeeds in removing road signs that have no relevance to traffic, the streets would be cleaner and more orderly. Who knows, the other cities may follow suit and make Metro Manila a more attractive place to live in or visit."

A nonstock, nonprofit organization of private motorists, the Philippine Motor Association has been working with the government to improve vehicular traffic and promote the safety of motorists all over the country. It is the only auto club in the Philippines affiliated with the Geneva-based Federation Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA) and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT).



FORD RANGER CANOPY

Gear up your Ford-tough Ranger pickup truck with this Ford genuine accessory. The canopy, which can be painted in whatever color you fancy is priced at P43,000. This limited offer is available at Ford's dealership network only from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15. The 2.5 liter Ranger is currently priced at P590,000 for the XL variant, P699,000 for the XLT 4x2 and P885,000 for the XLT 4x4 model. The Ranger SVT, also known as the Pinatubo Edition, is available at P925,000. Owning the Ranger is also made easy with the Ford G-financing offer, allowing customers to increase or adjust monthly payments annually. This special offer runs only until Jan. 31.

Isuzu registers 44% sales increases

THE YEAR 2000 is a thriving term for Isuzu Philippines Corp. whose sales is an assured record beater. Year round, the authority in diesel technology dominated the sales charts cropping the following top spots:

- For four years in a row, the Fuego outsold its rivals: now closing the year 2000 with 2,385 units sold in the diesel pickup category. This feat is credited by the 2,014 units sold for the two-wheel drive pickup class, devouring 39-percent market share.
- The N Series, Isuzu's undisputed bet for two years in the light-duty mover category, has again shown supremacy selling 1,009 units, grabbing 56 percent of the market.
- The Hi-lander once again ruled in the AUV diesel category with 4,303 total sales year round, capturing a market share of 37 percent.
- Leading further in the diesel AUV sport pack is the X-TRM selling 2,220 units for the year, a whopping 50-percent market share in sales figures.
- Total vehicle sales of 8,299 places Isuzu at the third notch in the overall commercial vehicle (CV) category. This means capturing 15.1 percent of the market and besting 10 competitors in the 13-brands sales meet.

Year 2000 figures is a 44-percent hop in sales performance as of the previous year, which closed with 5,751 units sold. Isuzu movers continuously reaped success year in and year out vis-à-vis total demand which increased only by 13 percent. Thanks to unmatched engine performance and unrivaled fuel economy that come in every Isuzu vehicle. Your responsible partner authenticates its title, being the choice of practical and wise buyers in search for true value for money.

Total Honda output posts 28% growth due to strong motorcycle sales

HONDA celebrates anew the honor of being the best-selling automotive brand in the country for the fifth straight year in 2000.

Based on reports gathered from Campi (Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.), TMA (Truck Manufacturers Association) and DPPA (Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association), Honda is shown to have sold a total of 69,926 units, an increase of 28 percent from 1999.

Category	1999	2000
Passenger cars CDP	10,040	9,620
Commercial vehicle	2,947	2,894
CVDP Motorcycle	41,510	57,412
MDP Total	54,497	69,926

Passenger car

Total passenger car sales reached 9,620 units reflecting a 4-percent decrease from 1999's figure. Nevertheless, Honda managed to capture 33 percent of the passenger car market due to its continuous efforts to provide customers with innovative and world-class products. The introduction of the VTEC technology in the City model and the unmatched popularity of the Civic model line helped in pushing the Honda brand to the top of the passenger car marker for the fifth straight year.

The Civic remained the best-selling model in the year 2000 garnering sales of 5,456 units. The City, Accord and the HR-V all remained within the top 15 models of the car industry.

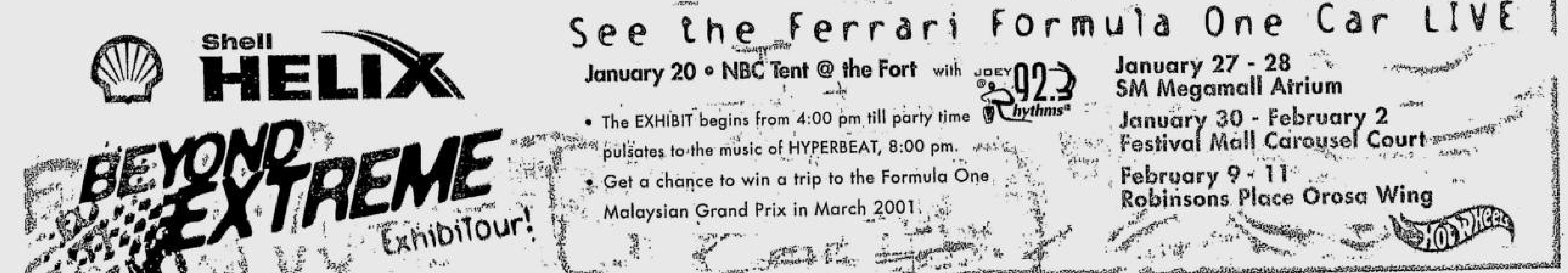
In the SUV market, Honda maintains its leadership with a 33-percent market share. The lone entry CRV held its own despite aggressive onslaught from other excise tax-free 4x2 SUV models. The availability of the limited variants of the popular CRV catered to the individuality and different tastes of customers further signifying the importance of customer satisfaction.

Motorcycle sales

Total motorcycle sales for the year 2000 numbered to 184,961 units with Honda capturing 31 percent of the market. Amid difficult conditions, Honda posted an increase of 38 percent in sales in 2000 due to the increasing popularity of scooters and other village bikes.

Honda's active participation in the motorsports arena likewise proved to be a test of Honda's supreme technology and reliability. Placing 6th in the Formula 1 World Championships further enhanced the advanced technology which Honda adapts in the mass-produced vehicles.

Brand	1999	2000
Honda	41,510	57,412
Yamaha	47,153	41,520
Suzuki	23,309	27,546
Kawasaki	45,120	58,483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January 30 - February 2
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Tastes

C1

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Subtleties of taste

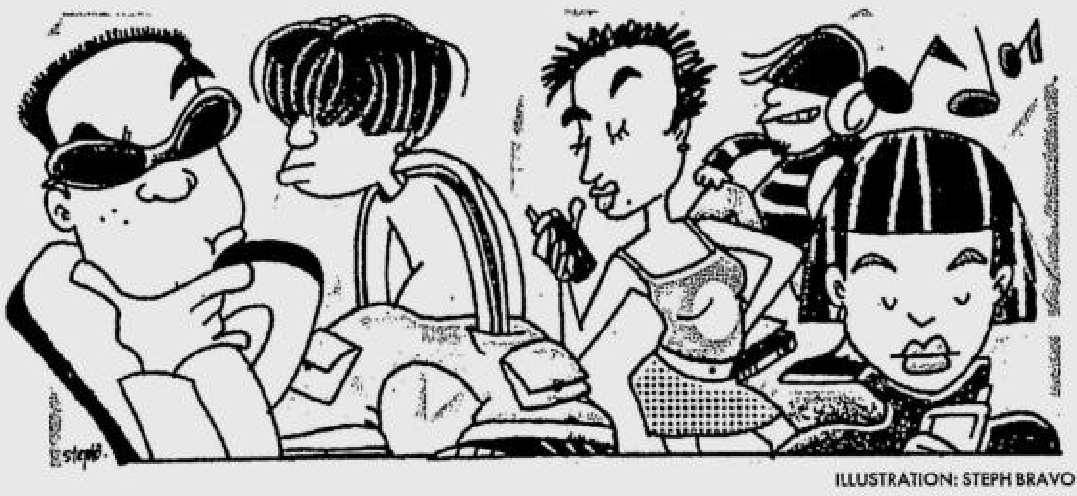
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

THE ANTICS of the youth are a source of great amusement to me. They derive excitement from watching moving pictures on a screen that they call the cinema; they listen to so-called music called rock 'n' roll and techno; and they leave the house, unescorted, in a state of seminudity that displays not just ankles, but shoulders as well! How times have changed.

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

The latest wave of madness that has seized them is their rejection of what I believe to be the greatest invention of the age, which is the telephone. In earlier times, my forefathers were already amazed at mankind's ability to send short messages by means of a wire across great distances, known as the telegraph. Yet with the laying of trans-oceanic cables, we are now able to speak to friends across continents as though they were in the next room!

But take one step forward, and our progeny takes one step back. Today, many youngsters find it preferable to send telegraphic messages rather than speak to one another over the telephone. During the war, we developed means by which we coded messages to one another as so not to be comprehended by the enemy. These days, youngsters do the same by means of removing vowels from words, and by substituting syllables phonetically. For instance, I sent a friend the question: "If you would be so kind, vouchsafe for me, friend, your location at the present time." He responded by saying: "I M N D LF8R," which I took to mean that he was in the elevator. He then asked me: "WRU?"

Some friends, with whom I correspond by this very quaint means of communication complain that I take overly long to compose my "texts," as they insist on calling these telegraphic messages. I believe, though, that text messaging gives one a certain latitude that is unavailable to the quick volleying of conversation. It is the composed precision of a shot at billiards, as opposed to the flash response of tennis. Every comma, every capitalization, every umlaut (the "u" with two dots, as in *Übersichhinausgehen*, which one intersperses to express joy or delight) is nuanced and important. It is what is known as subtlety.

Volume control

It is difficult to define subtlety; it is as though one were resetting a seismograph's sensitivity so that it records footfalls, rather than volcanic upheavals. I have a friend, for instance, who is capable of great subtlety in understanding people's behavior, but refuses to eat scones, because she claims they have no taste. It is true that many scones have no taste; but even a good scone, let us say the platonic ideal of a scone, would not have a taste that would bowl one over. For many Filipinos, "subtle" is a polite way of saying "*walang lasa.*"

Recently, I had the interesting experience of meeting a couple of DJs, those youngsters who are given the authority to control the music being played at bars or clubs, and hence control the speed at which these youngsters grind against each other orgiastically. The craft of DJ-ing sounds like a fascinating endeavor: while one song is being played, they are already listening to the next song in their headsets; the goal is to match the rhythmic beat of the present song with the next, so that one blends seamlessly into the other. I am not quite sure what methods of accreditation one has to pass to become a DJ, but it has something to do with oval glasses and short-cropped hair. Another characteristic that DJs appear to have in common is the tendency to communicate at extremely loud volumes. I suppose this is necessary when attempting to order a vodka tonic from a passing barman in a club. But in the closed confines of, say, a car, it can cause one to panic and yank violently at the parking brake.

Techno music is not subtle; but this is not a bad thing. I enjoy playing techno music at full volume with the windows open, careening down the South Expressway. I also enjoy Pavarotti in a similar way, though perhaps the other motorists may not. But there's another pleasure to be derived from listening to Horowitz's Moscow concert in the confines of one's own home, with all the windows shut, and not even the air conditioner nor electric fan running, so that every single note and nuance and dynamic can be heard. In that silence (interspersed with the tick of sweat dripping down my brow), you can almost feel the pressure of his fingers on the keys: the minute changes in volume, the fractional deviations from the proscribed tempo; these are, for us, what constitute emotion, and what differentiates Horowitz from the robotic playing of a Clavinova.

There is beauty in baroque excess and exuberance, as there is in streamlined minimalism and quietude. The one is not better than the other. But I believe that one must be able to understand both. One must be able to reset the sensitivity setting of the seismograph, so to speak, so that a whisper can become as powerful as the movement of the earth.

Taste layers

Given the choice, one or the other, I would take exuberance over subtlety. Give me the fiery-hot chili pastes of Thai cooking, the layering of spices of Indian cuisine, the herb-scented redolence of Provençal cuisine. Their exuberance, though, makes these schools of cooking easier to caricature, as they do at stalls in foodcourts: kaffir lime leaves and lemongrass immediately make something Thai; a liberal dose of curry powder makes something Indian; tomatoes and olive oil and *herbes de provençe* make something Provençal. But the Thai chili paste is itself a subtle blend, just as the spice blend in India (there is no such thing as curry powder in India) is a careful proportioning of cumin to fenugreek to coriander to *garam masala* and so on, just as *herbes de provençe* can contain anything from thyme to rosemary to lavender.

And then there's the refinement of classical haute cuisine. There's no way one can fake a sole *meuniere*: the freshness of the fish, the best butter from Normandy, the precision of the timing with which it is fried. "It has no taste!" many of us may cry. We want it redolent of herbs, battered, fried, slathered with a tomato coulis, smeared with mayonnaise, dipped in soy sauce, soured with vinegar, spiked with chili. Under the cloak of these exclamatory flavorings, the fish could be any fish at all: just white flesh, devoid of flavor, flakable with a fork. How is one to understand the difference between sole and *rouget* and *bar de ligne*, between *pagi* and *asohos* and *espada*?

Many of those who style themselves as wine connoisseurs were introduced into this refinement through New World wines: Chilean, Australian, Californian. They enjoy the syrupy thickness of a Merlot, or the sting of a zinfandel. Most of these are yuppies who, only a few years back, were having their first tastes of alcohol via tequila shots and vodka and beer, and view wine (and they drink only red wine, mind you; for them, white wine is for homosexuals) as the adult equivalent to these adolescent libations. They pour the wine and swirl and admire how red it is; they breathe in its overpowering smell and remark on its potency; they drink it down and praise it for its strength. For them, French and Italian wines are weak and watery; and it's true that a Gigondas or even a Chateaux Margaux can seem elfin and frail beside one of those California Cabernet Sauvignons. But myself, I'd rather date an Audrey Hepburn than a Gabrielle Reece.

Subtlety is not a lack of strength; it is a frame of mind of greater sensitivity, that one adopts in order to apprehend what is, at the risk of sounding precocious, more refined and more noble. One obviously cannot be subtle all the time: in conversation, one would fail to be understood by most people; if the music at an entire concert (an all-Debussy recital, say) were subtle, I would fall asleep; and in food, how I would miss the zing of *pad thai* or the accretive layerings of a Moroccan *tagine*. But attempt it as an experiment, the next time you are before your stereo system, listening to music: turn down the volume, and you'll hear things you've never heard before.

Ah, these youth of today, with their speeding automobiles and their loud music. They have much yet to learn.

> One cannot be subtle all the time: if the music at an entire concert were subtle, I would fall asleep; and in food, how I would miss the zing of 'pad thai' or the accretive layerings of a Moroccan 'tagine'

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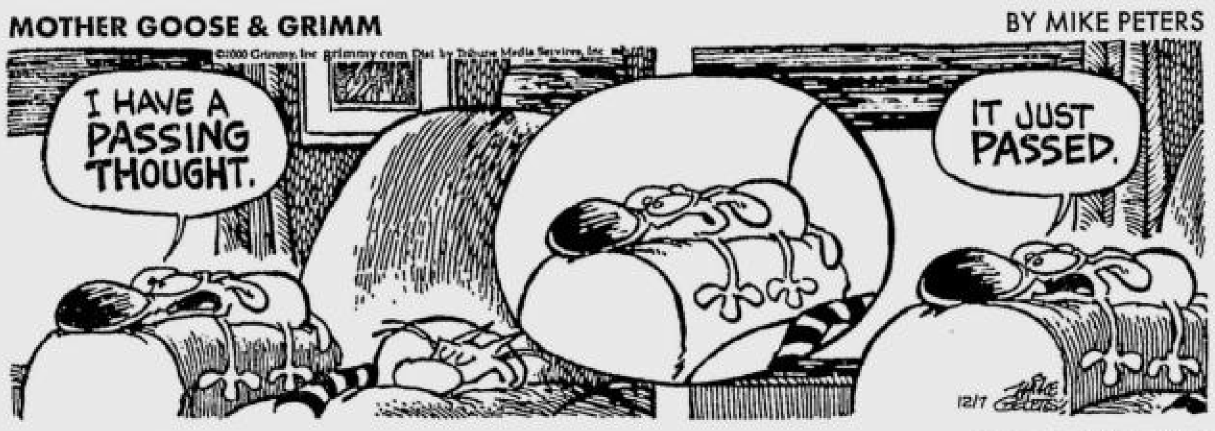
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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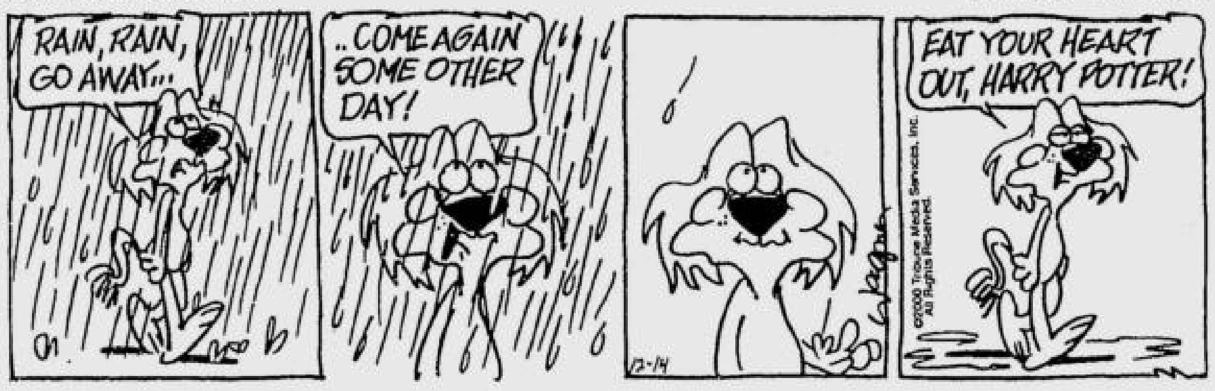
12/7

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY...
..COME AGAIN SOME OTHER DAY!
EAT YOUR HEART OUT, HARRY POTTER!
12-14
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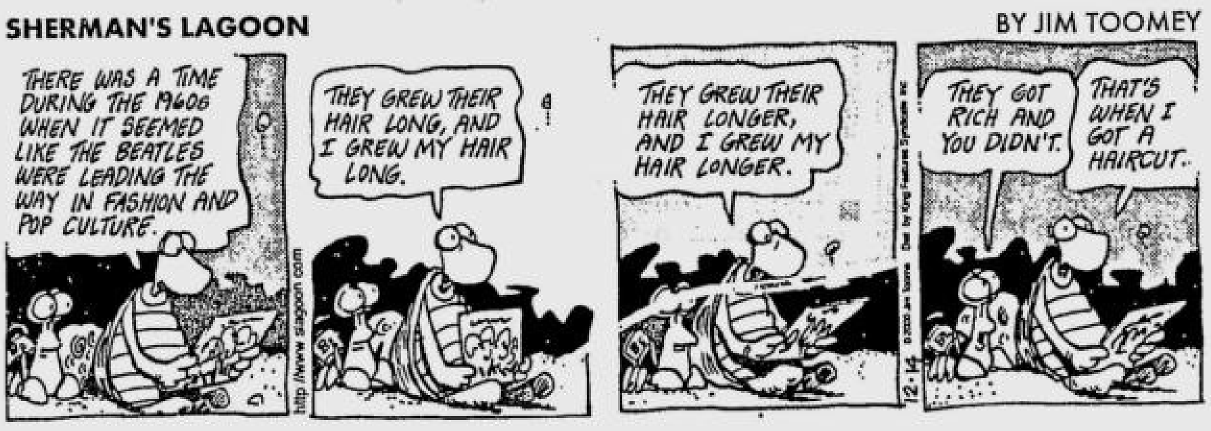
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY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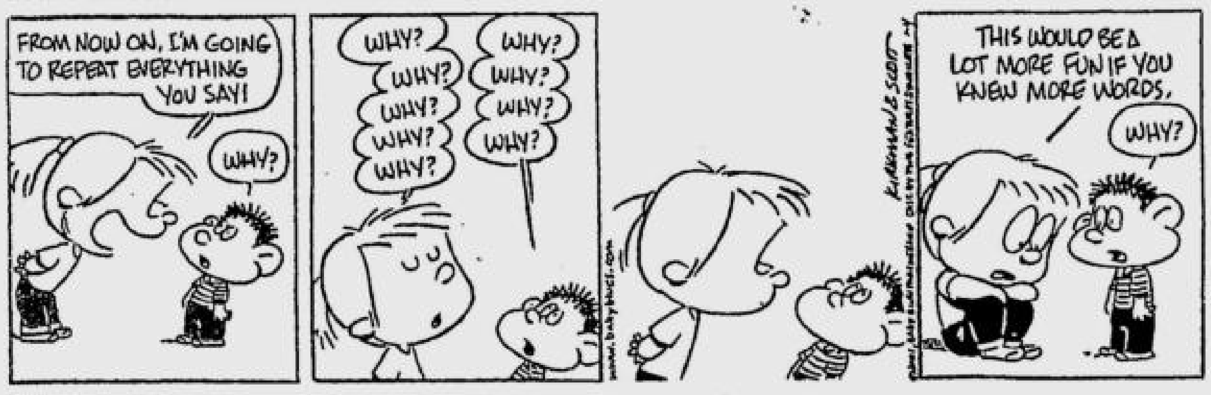
THEY GREW THEIR HAIR LONG, AND I GREW MY HAIR LONG.
THEY GREW THEIR HAIR LONGER, AND I GREW MY HAIR LONGER.
THEY GOT RICH AND YOU DIDN'T.
THAT'S WHEN I GOT A HAIRCUT..
12-14

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dean Jones, Jacqueline DuPre, Corazon Aquino, Eduard Shevardnadze, Dinah Manoff, China Slick, Richard Finch

Happy Birthday: You can't go wrong this year if you push your ideas. Follow your desires and dreams. Don't let your stubborn nature be the one thing that holds you back. Rise above the "who's right, who's wrong" syndrome and get down to business. The more willing you are to work alongside others, the further you'll get. Your numbers: 21, 25, 32, 36, 39, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can make money, but your inability to hang onto it will be devastating. Entertainment will provide you with stimulating ideas. New lovers will be eager to move closer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep an open mind when other people voice their opinions. Your stubborn nature may cause you to lose friendships that you care about. Your strong, stable nature will entice new lovers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Present your ideas to superiors. Your intellectual versatility will win you points and bring you support. New career opportunities will fall into place. Be careful in signing contracts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in business that entails mail order or telephone soliciting. You need a change to feel stimulated again. Don't be afraid to let go of the past. Move on to new territory.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will feel resentment if your partner steals your thunder. Criticism could lead to major arguments. Concentrate on financial investments that appear to be doing quite well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn from past mistakes. You have lost in the past due to your inability to take good advice. You must be willing to listen to others and compromise if you wish to make your relationship work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your willpower to make yourself the best you can be. Quit bad habits and get yourself into a routine that will help you feel healthier. A little shopping will lift your spirits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can expect opposition from those less eager to follow your beliefs. Criticism will be hard for you to take. You must be careful how you retaliate. You can make more progress if you're calm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your ears open. You can pick up valuable information that will aid you in your business deals. Don't worry about friends who like to interfere in your personal life. Ignore them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make financial gains through property or small business ventures. Take care of any paperwork that has piled up. Minor health problems will be due to fatigue.

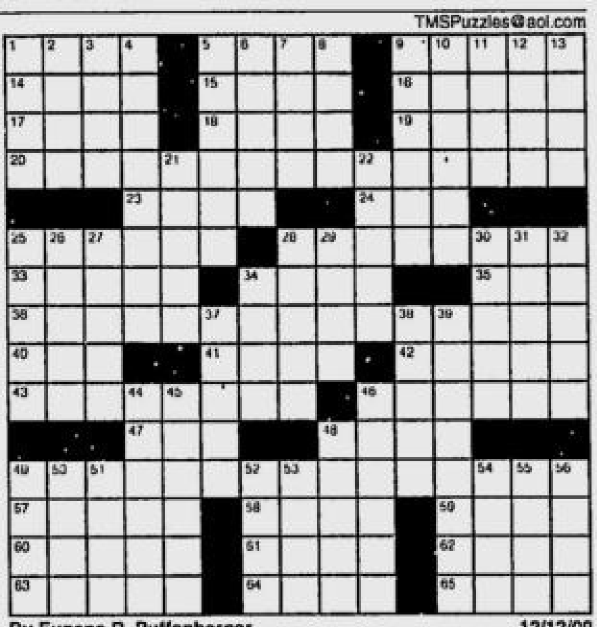
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to be entertained. Your spirits have been down. Pleasure trips and social activity may be the cure. You will have a strong need to have a greater involvement with children.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Limitations due to co-workers may be upsetting. Try to get on with your own work and refuse to take part in the dilemmas that other people are creating. Don't overspend on entertainment.

Birthday Baby: You are always searching for something new and exciting. You thrive on the unknown. You are a trendsetter and an inventor. You contribute to whatever you feel is a worthy cause.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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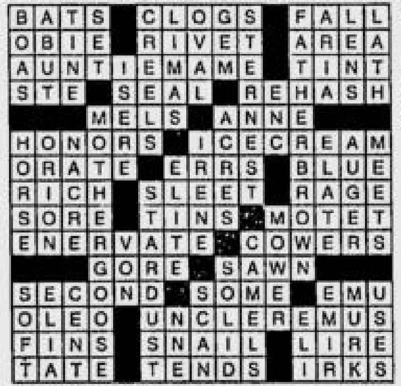
By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

12/12/00

ACROSS
1 Cougar
5 Letters for the wapiti club?
9 Way overweight
14 Coll. senior's exam
15 Military force
16 Have scruples
17 Blue dye
18 Bit of dialogue
19 Chair designer
20 Collegiate battle of bulldogs
23 Low high tide
24 Wind dir.
25 "Lowdown" singer Boz
28 Arquette and others
33 Main vessel
34 Ages and ages
35 Seller's $ equivocation
36 Collegiate clash of cougars
40 DDE's command
41 "Cheers" actor Roger
42 Mother-of-pearl
43 Mary Roberts of mysteries
46 Exchanges blows
47 King of France
48 Small amount
49 Collegiate tussle of tigers
57 Cultivated plants
58 Nobelist Wiesel
59 __ podrida
60 "Divine Comedy" poet
61 Tim of "The Fugitive"
62 Downpour
63 Set of students
64 Tan and Irving
65 Sicilian erupter

DOWN
1 Drama
2 Annapolis sch.
3 Body armor
4 Eventually
5 Corkwood trees
6 Groom oneself
7 Hawks' former arena
8 Looks at
9 Port on the Black Sea
10 Pummeled
11 Madame Bovary
12 Tallow base
13 Highland tongue
21 Strip city?
22 CNN newsman Frank
25 Carpenter, often
26 Raccoon's kin
27 Burning crime
28 VCR button
29 Aahs partners?
30 V-shaped cut
31 Cancel
32 Loudness units
34 Asseverate
37 Work out
38 Join together
39 Teddy Roosevelt's home, __ Hill
44 Becomes violently active
45 Mounts
46 Ellen and Dave
48 With frosty words
49 "Back in Black" rockers
50 Caspian feeder
51 __ fide
52 Hindu sacred books
53 Criticize severely
54 Thin strip
55 Lena of "Havana"
56 Wendy's dog

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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T	A	T	E	■	T	E	N	D	S	■	I	R	K	S

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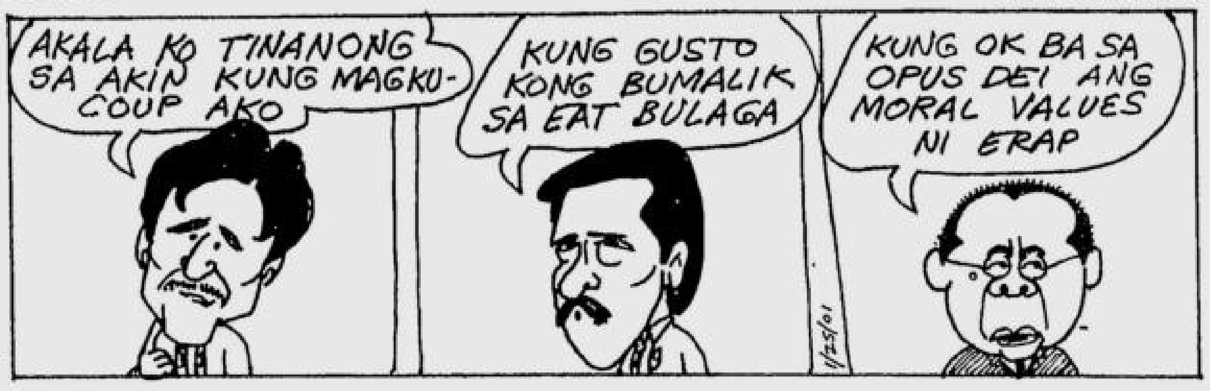
12/12/00

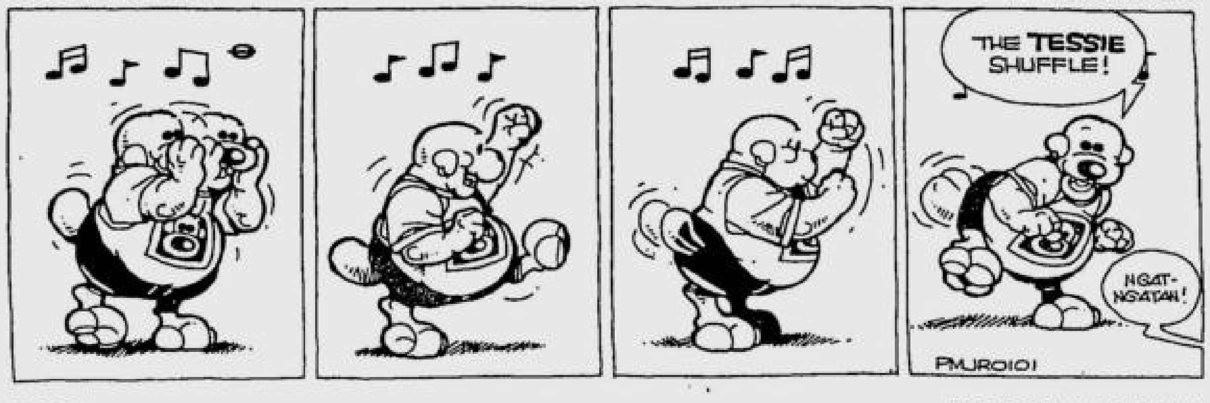
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AKALA KO TINANONG SA AKIN KUNG MAGKU-COUP AKO
KUNG GUSTO KONG BUMALIK SA EAT BULAGA
KUNG OK BA SA OPUS DEI ANG MORAL VALUES NI ERAP
1/25/01

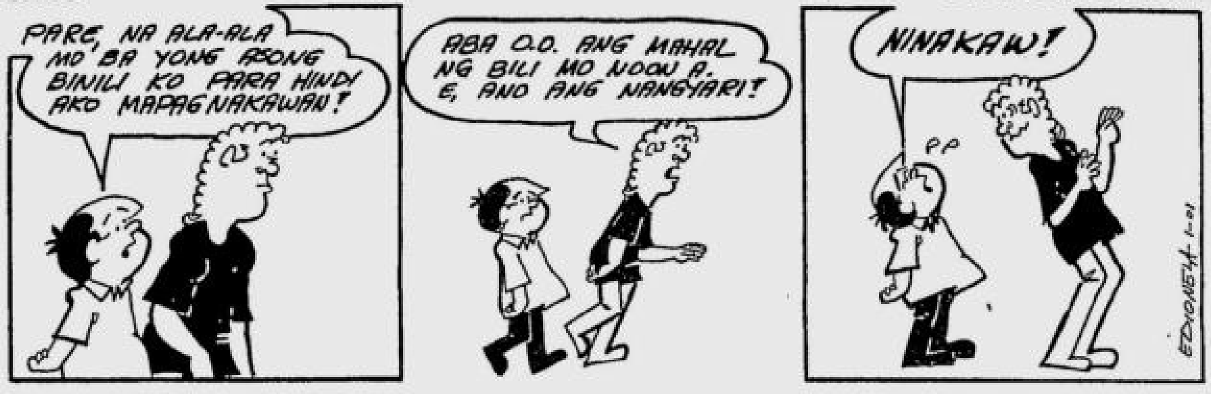
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


THE TESSIE SHUFFLE!
NGAT-NGATAN!
PMJR0101

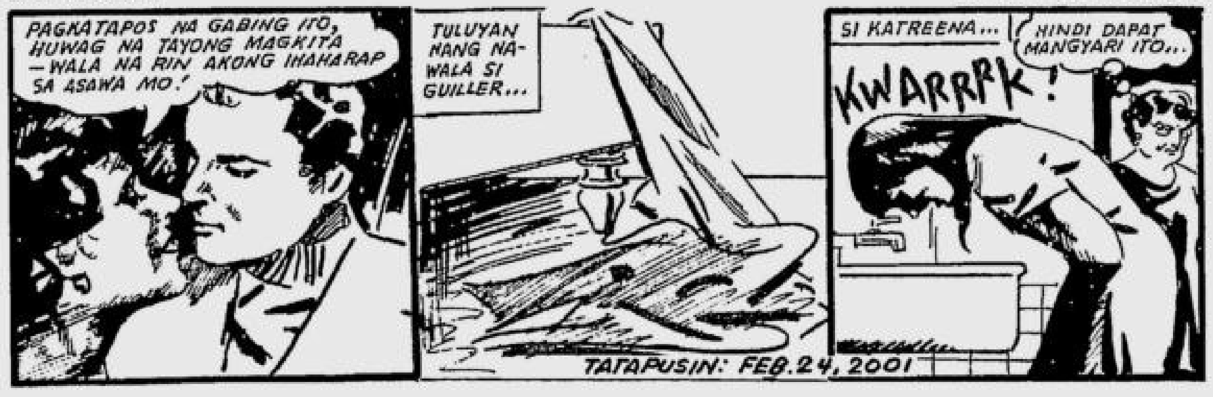
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARE, NA ALA-ALA MO BA YONG ASONG BINILI KO PARA HINDI AKO MAPAGNAKAWAN!
ABA O.O. ANG MAHAL NG BILI MO NOON A. E, ANO ANG NANGYARI?
NINAKAW!
EDIONELA 1-01

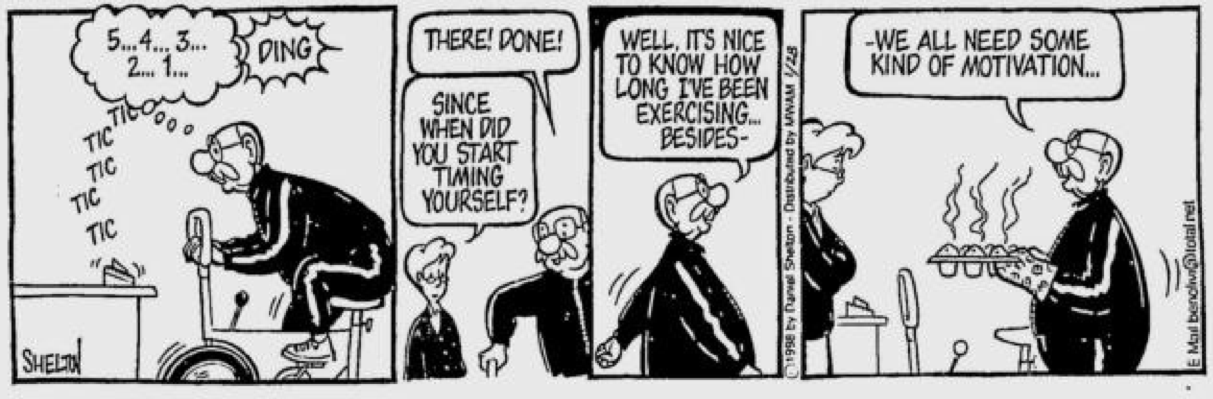
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


PAGKATAPOS NA GABING ITO, HUWAG NA TAYONG MAGKITA —WALA NA RIN AKONG IHAHARAP SA ASAWA MO.'
TULUYAN NANG NAWALA SI GUILLER...
SI KATREENA...
HINDI DAPAT MANGYARI ITO...
KWARRRK!
TATAPUSIN: FEB.24, 2001

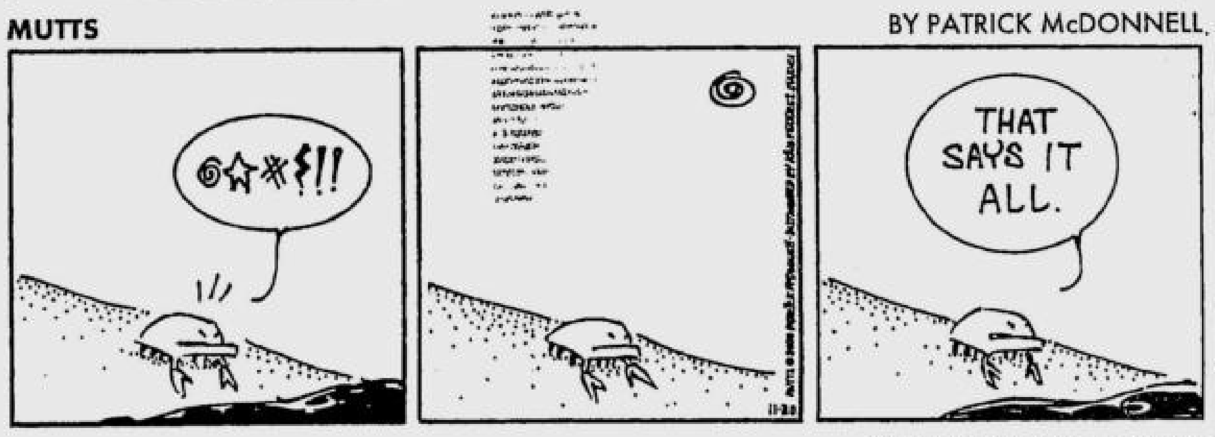
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


5...4...3... 2...1...
DING
TIC TIC TIC TIC TIC
SHELTON
THERE! DONE!
SINCE WHEN DID YOU START TIMING YOURSELF?
WELL, IT'S NICE TO KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN EXERCISING... BESIDES-
©1998 by Daniel Shelton - Distributed by MWAM 1/28
-WE ALL NEED SOME KIND OF MOTIVATION...
E Mail benoliv@total.net

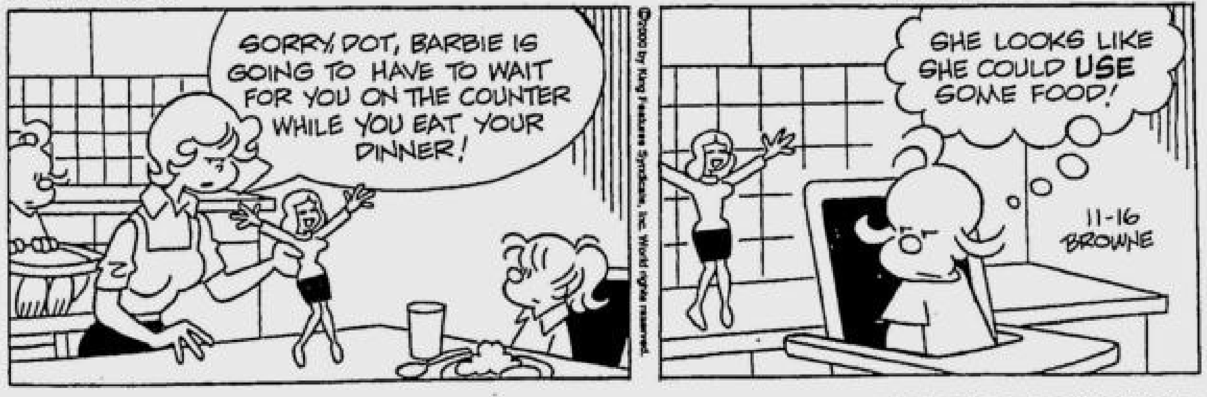
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


@☆*$!!
THAT SAYS IT ALL.
11-30

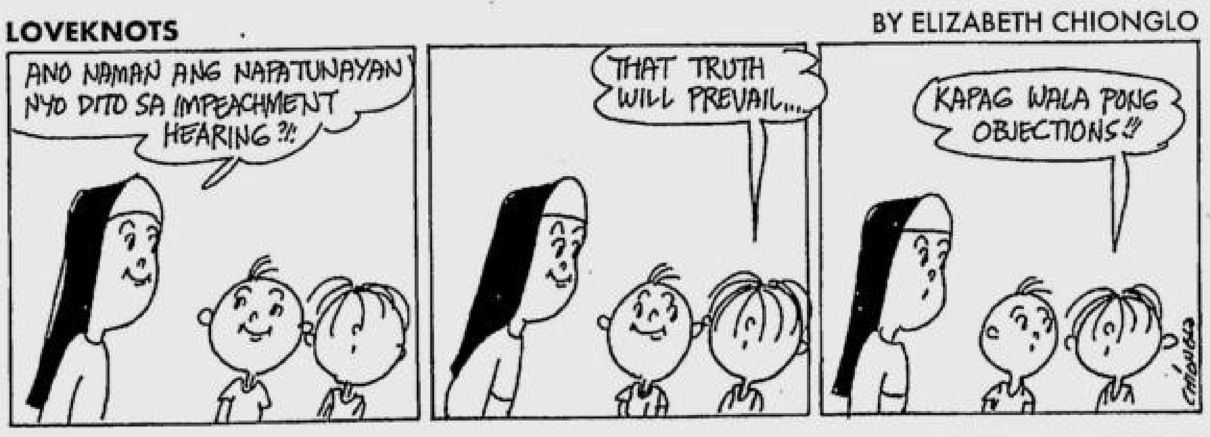
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


SORRY, DOT, BARBIE IS GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOU ON THE COUNTER WHILE YOU EAT YOUR DINNER!
©2000 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE COULD USE SOME FOOD!
11-16
BROWNE

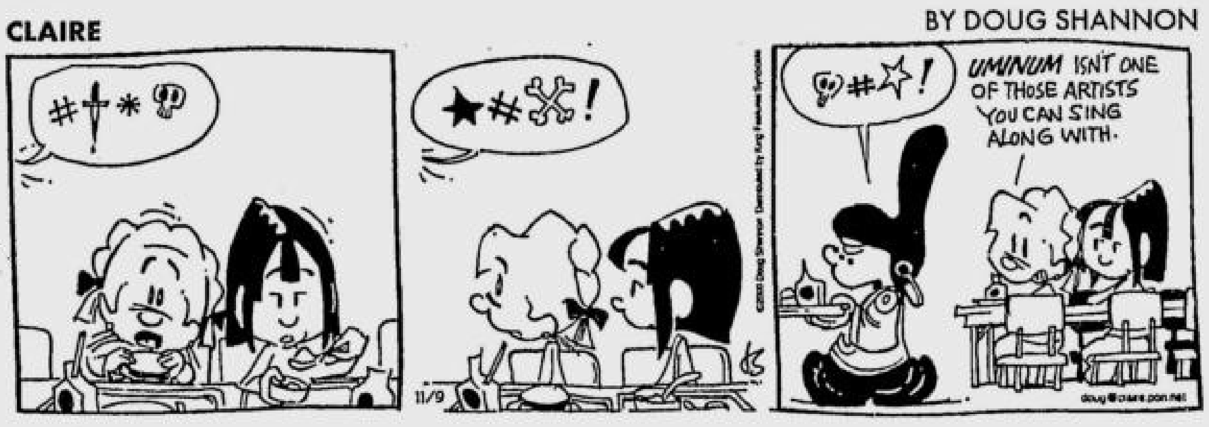
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANO NAMAN ANG NAPATUNAYAN NYO DITO SA IMPEACHMENT HEARING ?!
THAT TRUTH WILL PREVAIL...
KAPAG WALA PONG OBJECTIONS!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


#✝*💀
★#✕!
11/9
💀#☆!
UMINUM ISN'T ONE OF THOSE ARTISTS YOU CAN SING ALONG WITH.
doug@claire.pon.net

Village developer violates environmental laws

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm writing to ask for your help regarding the violation of environment laws being done by a real estate developer in Barangay Amaya (Tanza, Cavite), which causes heavy flooding here.

The developer (Pacific Ace Village 1) is doing reclamation work on our river. We believe it is violating provisions in the Civil Code of the Philippines regarding (3-m) river easement.

Our barangay and local officials here are not doing anything regarding our complaint about the illegal construction and violation of environment laws. I am enclosing a xerox copy of our complaint received by the vice mayor's office on Nov. 6, signed by 65 residents in our barangay.

We hope you can help us and through your column, the concerned environment officials like Environmtent Secretary Cerilles can do something to address the problem of flooding and to provide the necessary solution at the soonest possible time.

ENRIQUE C. ABAD
tel. (046) 437-1671

By now, the Mayor's office could already have referred your problem to the DENR Community Officer (Cenro) and the Provincial Officer (Penro).

With 77 provinces in the Philippines, the problem your barangay is facing may be duplicated in some others, so those concerned could refer to Chapter 2 of our Civil Code, which clarifies general provision on easements relating to waters.

Since you also enclosed the photo of the river reclamation as well as a copy of your signed petition, I am publishing your letter. However, I suggest that readers with environmental problems should write to Doris Gaskell Nuyda, whose column, Seeing Green, appears every Friday.

A name for her baby?

I HAVE been married for seven years and it is only now that my husband and I are expecting our first child. I will be giving birth in March. I am a Roman Catholic but it is only now that I am really practicing my religion, going to Mass on Sundays to thank the Lord. In your column you always advise your writers to pray, and I always keep in mind now what you have stated, that more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

May I ask your advice on how old should a baby be at baptism? My friends tell me I should not prepare baby clothes and diapers and all of the baby's needs until just a month before the baby will be born. They say this is to make sure she will be in good health. Do you believe this superstition?

Turning to the Lord now and thanking Him for the blessing we expect, I am also wondering what to call our baby. Maybe the baby should have my husband's name if it's a boy. Or maybe we should name it after the saint of that day, but how will I know? Thank you for your advice.

LOLITA

You will surely want to be with your baby during his/her baptism, so it will be good to wait until he/she is a month old because that is also when you will be physically ready for a long trip outside of your home.

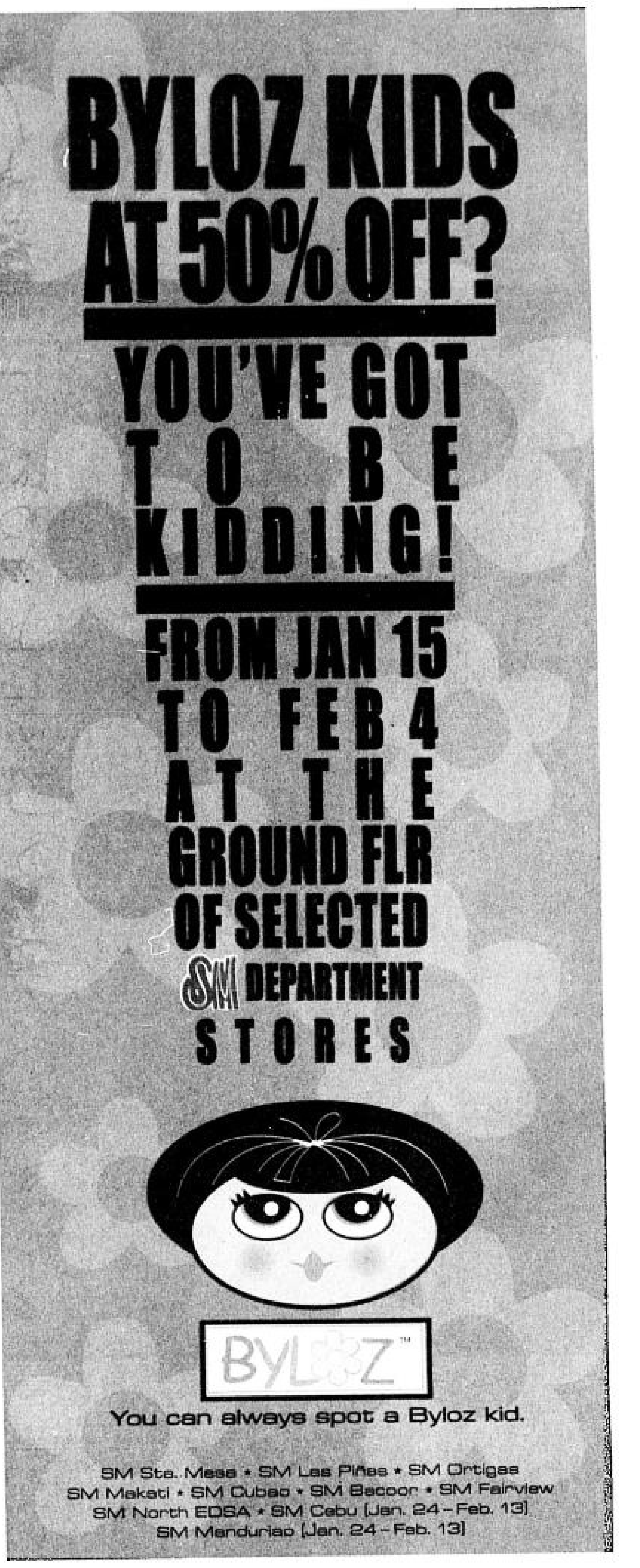
As for buying the baby's needs, just make sure you have the budget, and just follow your mind. And pray also. The power of prayer helps us live our lives each day.

To answer your question about naming your baby, you will be interested to know that the 2001 calendar of the Monfort Foundation (whose main project is the well-known Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls) has the name of the saint revered on each day. What will interest readers who love reading the Bible is that it also carries the biblical reference for each day.

The Monfort Foundation is a nonstock, nonprofit group, and their beautifully printed calendar is available at only P50, pick-up price. Those interested who are outside of Metro Manila can order by mail, but will have to add the postage price of another P50. Address your letters to Guevent Building, 49 Libertad St., Mandaluyong City, tel. 531-0386, or e-mail pwhs@skyinet.net.

Many readers will also be interested to know that their booklets "Read Me Our Rue It," "How to Avoid Purgatory" and "Let's Pray (Not Just Say) the Rosary" are printed both in English and Tagalog. Pick-up price is P10 each (postage another P10). They also have "An Unpublished Manuscript on Purgatory" at P20 each.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



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No roasts, but there's music

"MUSIKA II," Kenny Rogers Roasters' annual music competition, recently held its semifinals night to determine who will advance to the grand finals on Jan. 26 at the Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo, QC. Aspiring musicians, their parents, school administrators and classmates of the semifinalists filled the huge PCI Tower auditorium. They were all witnesses to the influence that music has on the students—an influence that continues to move each semifinalist toward a lifelong career in music.

There were 453 entries in the Songwriting and Solo Vocal Performance Categories from 168 schools. Out of this number, 44 students from as far as Bacolod, Iloilo, Masbate, Ilocos and Olongapo qualified to compete and showcase their talents in the semifinals. The panel of judges for the Songwriting Category includes Angelo Villegas, HIT Productions; Vic Valenciano, BMG Records; and Alvin Nunez, composer, musical arranger and director.

Opera and theater veterans Nolyn Cabahug, Jai Sabas, Jonhem Cruz and Chiqui Pineda determined the winners for the Solo Vocal Performance Category (Classical and Broadway). Jong Azores of Star Records, Noel Magat of Alpha Records and musical arranger, composer and director Butch Miraflor determined the winners for the Solo Vocal Performance Category (Pop). The judges admitted that they had a hard time determining the winners for the Solo Vocal Performance Category because of the contestants' equally impressive performances.

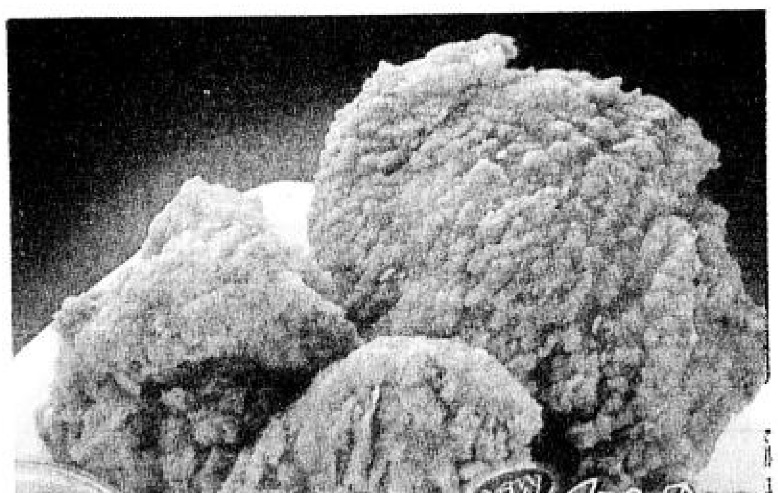
Out of the 15 semifinalists in the Songwriting Category, five emerged as grand finalists. They are: Jacob Israel Clemente, Centro Escolar University; Nicanor Carlo Santos IV, De La Salle-Zobel; Johannes Daniel Gracia, Makati Science High School; Myra Tulips Mores, San Jacinto National High School, Masbate; and Felicity Gwen Elizalde, Assumption College, Iloilo.

In the Classical genre, four out of seven semifinalists will advance to the finals. They are: Lordonna Chavez, Sta. Teresa College-Batangas; Ben Girard Valdez, Regional Science High School-SBMA; Gabriela Francisco, DLS-Z; and Jaime Barcelon, Brent International School. Likewise, four contestants qualified in the Broadway genre. They are Rosevie de la Cruz, Makati Science High School; Edge Christine Karina Salvador, Ilocos Norte College of Arts and Trades; Kristine Cindy Aguilar, Aquinas University Science-Oriented High School, Legazpi City; and Wilson Benedict Carriaga, Ilocos Sur North High School.

The Pop genre, which had the most number of entries, will have five finalists. They are: Nissan Cheryl Garcia, Colegio San Agustin-Makati; Mykel Sam Regacho, Village Montessori School; Maria Gerda Opague, Holy Infant Montessori Center; Kathleen Rae Jumaquio, International Montessori Center; and Lou Carla Pepito, Trinity Christian School-Bacolod.

"Musika II" invites everyone to come and celebrate the talent of the Filipino youth on its grand finals. Let us be witnesses to what the future has in store for the Philippine music industry.

Call the secretariat at 818-9986 or 817-4071.

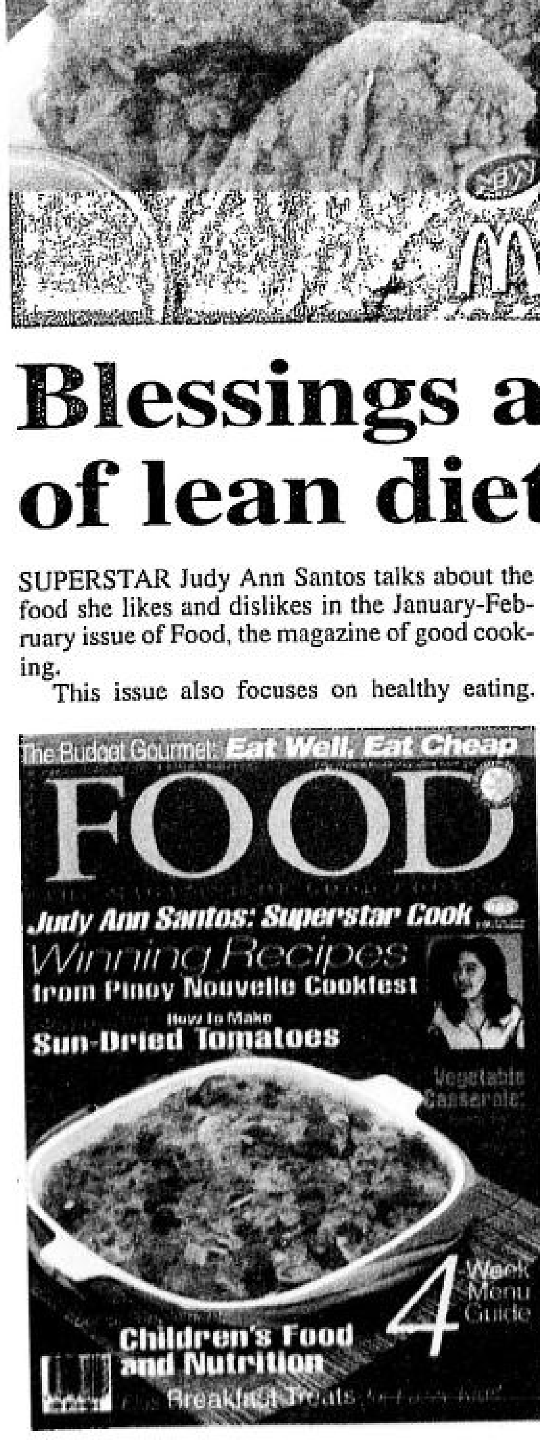


CRISPIER, JUICIER
The launch of the new McDonald's Chicken McCrispy is the first among many surprises the fast-food giant has in store for Filipinos as it marks its 20th year in the Philippines. The new Chicken McCrispy is cooked just right to lock in the juices as well as the taste and flavor, while making sure that the skin is irresistibly crisp. It comes with not just one but two sauces for an extra special touch and is now available in McDonald's' more than 230 outlets in the country.

Blessings and wages of lean diet in Food

SUPERSTAR Judy Ann Santos talks about the food she likes and dislikes in the January-February issue of Food, the magazine of good cooking.

This issue also focuses on healthy eating.


The Budget Gourmet: Eat Well, Eat Cheap
FOOD
Judy Ann Santos: Superstar Cook
Winning Recipes from Pinoy Nouvelle Cookfest
How to Make Sun-Dried Tomatoes
Vegetable Casserole
4-Week Menu Guide
Children's Food and Nutrition
Breakfast Treats

Featured are hearty vegetable recipes such as baked vegetable casserole and roasted vegetables. There's also a supplement on children's food and nutrition, which carries recipes for nursing mothers. The breakfast recipes developed by writer Tina Concepcion Diaz for her fuzzy son combine ingredients kids normally don't like (carrots) and food they love (hotdogs).

Is tallness a matter of genetics or diet? Food Magazine interviewed several tall girls and found a common factor among them—and it's not the genes.

But if eating healthy is the way to go, nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta warns that an obsession for healthy eating can be a disorder called *orthorexia nervosa*. She says orthorexics impose on themselves a spartan diet of bean sprouts, fresh fruits, fiber bars, digestive biscuits and lean food. Instead of enhancing their health, they jeopardize it, Orbeta says. She also makes a list of strange eating beliefs with no scientific bases.

Other features include a step-by-step demonstration of making sun-dried tomatoes and the prize-winning recipes of the Pinoy Nouvelle Cuisine Cookfest.

Food Magazine, a publication of ABS-CBN Publishing, is available at all ACA Video Outlets, National Bookstores and your favorite newsstands at major supermarkets Call 631-9345 or 141-952404 for subscriptions.

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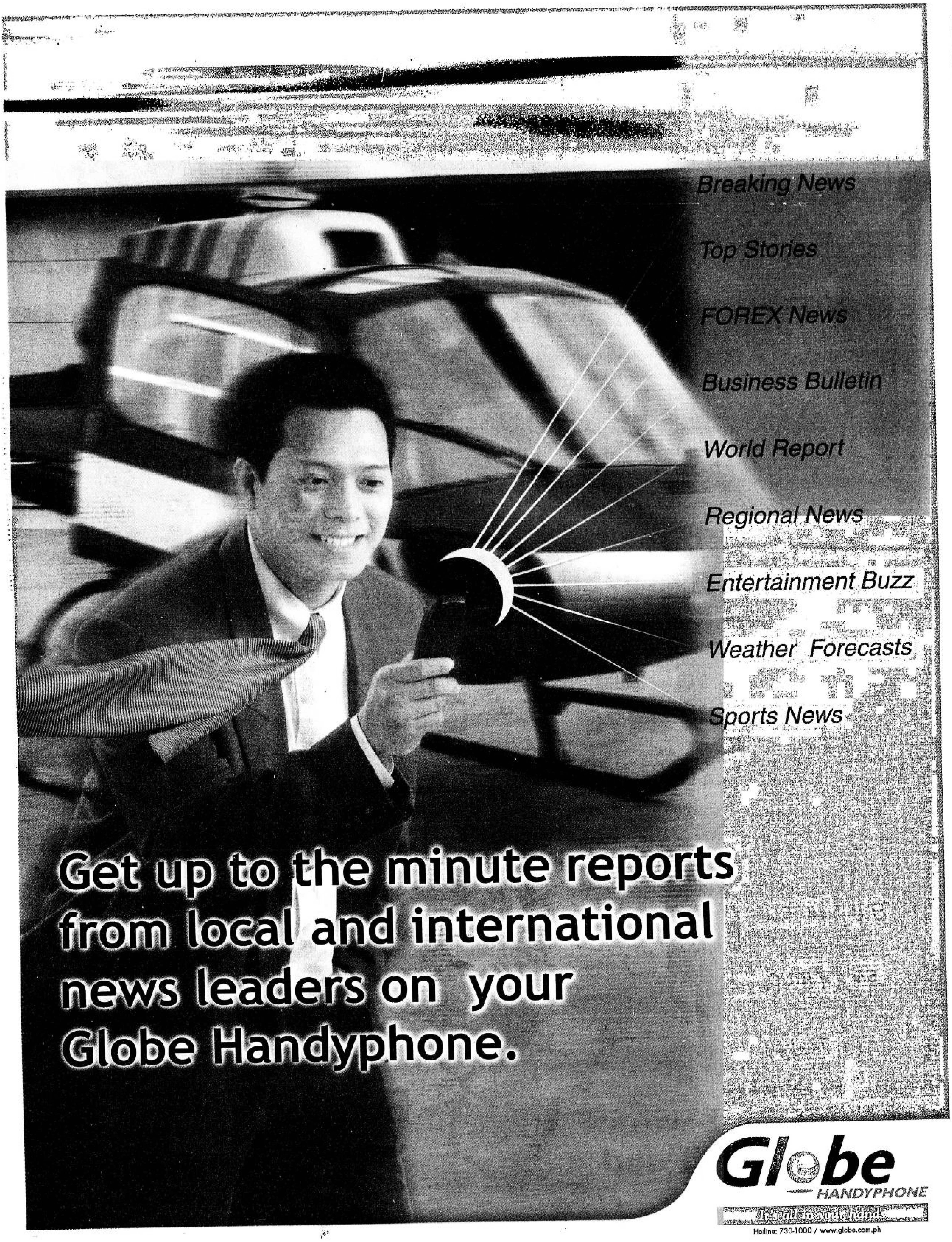

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CNN LYCOS ABS-CBN

Via the menu-based convenience of GlobeXplore

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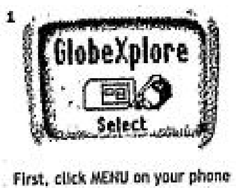
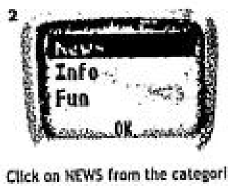
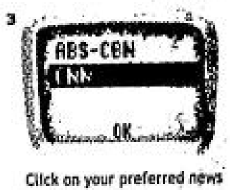

GlobeXplore
Select

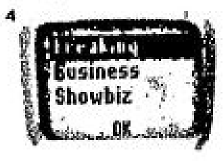
First, click MENU on your phone and scroll to select GlobeXplore.

2

News
Info
Fun
OK

Click on NEWS from the categories that will be shown on the screen.

3

ABS-CBN
CNN
OK

Click on your preferred news source (ex. CNN.)

4

Breaking
Business
Showbiz
OK

Click on desired category (ex. Breaking.)

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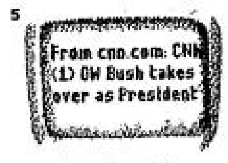

From cnn.com: CNN
(1) GW Bush takes
over as President

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Via the familiar text-based key words of InfoText

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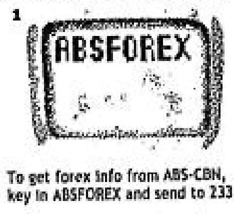
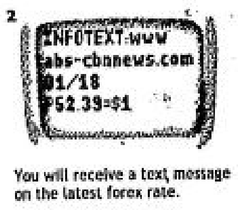


To get forex info from ABS-CBN, key in ABSFOREX and send to 2333.

2


INFOTEXT:www
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P52.39=$1

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Via the on-line convenience of WAP

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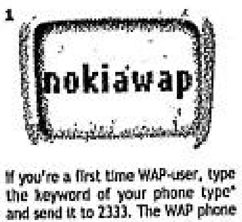
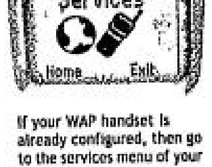
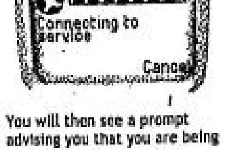


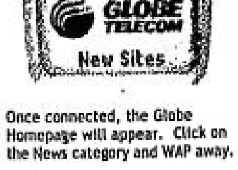
If you're a first time WAP-user, type the keyword of your phone type* and send it to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2

Menu
Services
Home
Exit

If your WAP handset is already configured, then go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

3

Connecting to service
Cancel

You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.

4

GLOBE TELECOM
GLOBE TELECOM
New Sites

Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on the News category and WAP away.

*The keywords are:

• For Nokia 7110 and 6210-nokiawap • For EricssonR320s-ericssonwap
• For Siemens M35-siemenswap • For Motorola T2288-motorolawap

Tastes

Blessed by nature

Lush Life provides a feast for the senses well worth the indulgence

CLOCKWISE from left: Okay Light Carrot Cake, Vegetarian Pizza, Laguna Cheese Caprese and Grilled Prawns with Sun-Dried Tomato Pesto

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Erik Arazas

WITHIN the walls of The Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion on Teodoro F. Valencia Circle in Rizal Park is a veritable paradise of natural beauty, harmony and contemplation. Discover Lush Life, a temple to Asian gastronomy.

Lush Life opened last December. It has a panoramic view in which the Museum of the Filipino People becomes merely one element in the picturesque setting of cityscape and landscape.

When dining at the 200-sq m place with a seating capacity of 80, one will experience a subtle change of rhythm and notice a riot of colors clamoring for attention as a gentle breeze stirs the foliage and its murmurs accompany the birdsong.

An alliance between the Clean and Green Foundation and Lush Life Inc., Lush Life is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and is touted about as "the premiere spot within the park," which advocates organically grown products and health food.

The term "lush life" implies alcoholism, if based on the jazz song written by Billy Straighthorn, originally recorded by Johnny Hartman and revived by Linda Ronstadt. But in this case, the restaurant is so named because it is "located in the middle of a garden," says Lina Romasanta, who co-owns the restaurant with designer Rosella de Ocampo and architect Marty Mabanta. The former also handles the diner's marketing, menu planning and concoction of recipes.

Like an old house

Lush Life's interior, designed by De Ocampo, is homey. The combination of carved panels, wood and marble is a delight to behold. The whole place is bathed in bright and contrasting hues. Mismatched old furniture and Batibot chairs are used in keeping with the character of a comfortable ancestral home.

The mezzanine is used as an art gallery where an exhibit of Pinta Kinse, a group of art students from the University of the Philippines, is ongoing. "Their paintings reflect what you see around the Orchidarium," Romasanta says. Handpainted fabrics, created by De Ocampo's daughter, adorn the al fresco area wherein one can maximize the enjoyment of the garden.

There is no music save for the symphony of voices in conversation and the occasional tinkle of glasses or silverware meeting dinnerware.

Fusion cuisine

The restaurant's menu includes grill specialties from the region blended with the healthy fare of the Mediterranean, creating a balance sought after by a new generation of enlightened diners.

Starters are lightly fueled selections such as Smoked Boneless Bangus with Mustard Dill Dressing, Fried Calamares with Aioli, Laguna Cheese Caprese and Sushi Tempura. Second courses are homemade pasta like Creamy Pesto, Carbonara, Meat Sauce and Tomato and Basil Sauce and pizzas such as Margherita, Longaniza and Kesong Puti, Al Herbe and Vegetarian. Round off your meals with sweet interludes like Lushious Chocolate Cake, Old-Fashioned Apple Pie à la Mode, Not So Sober Rum Cake, Definitely Not Diet Sans Rival, Okay Light Carrot Cake, Silvanas, Melt in Your Mouth Bites, Revel Bars, Butterscotch Bars and Nana's Apple Fritters with Vanilla Ice Cream.

The list of beverages is also ample: Fresh fruit shakes like banana, pineapple, ripe mango, green mango, *dalandan* and apple, iced tea, soda in cans, espresso, cappuccino, caffè latte, iced cappuccino, iced mocca and hot tea.

The restaurant's bestsellers are the Bacon and Cheddar, Blue Cheese and Wasabi Dressing burgers, Grilled Pork Chops with Plum Sauce

BLESSED/ p.D2

LINA Romasanta whips up a salad.

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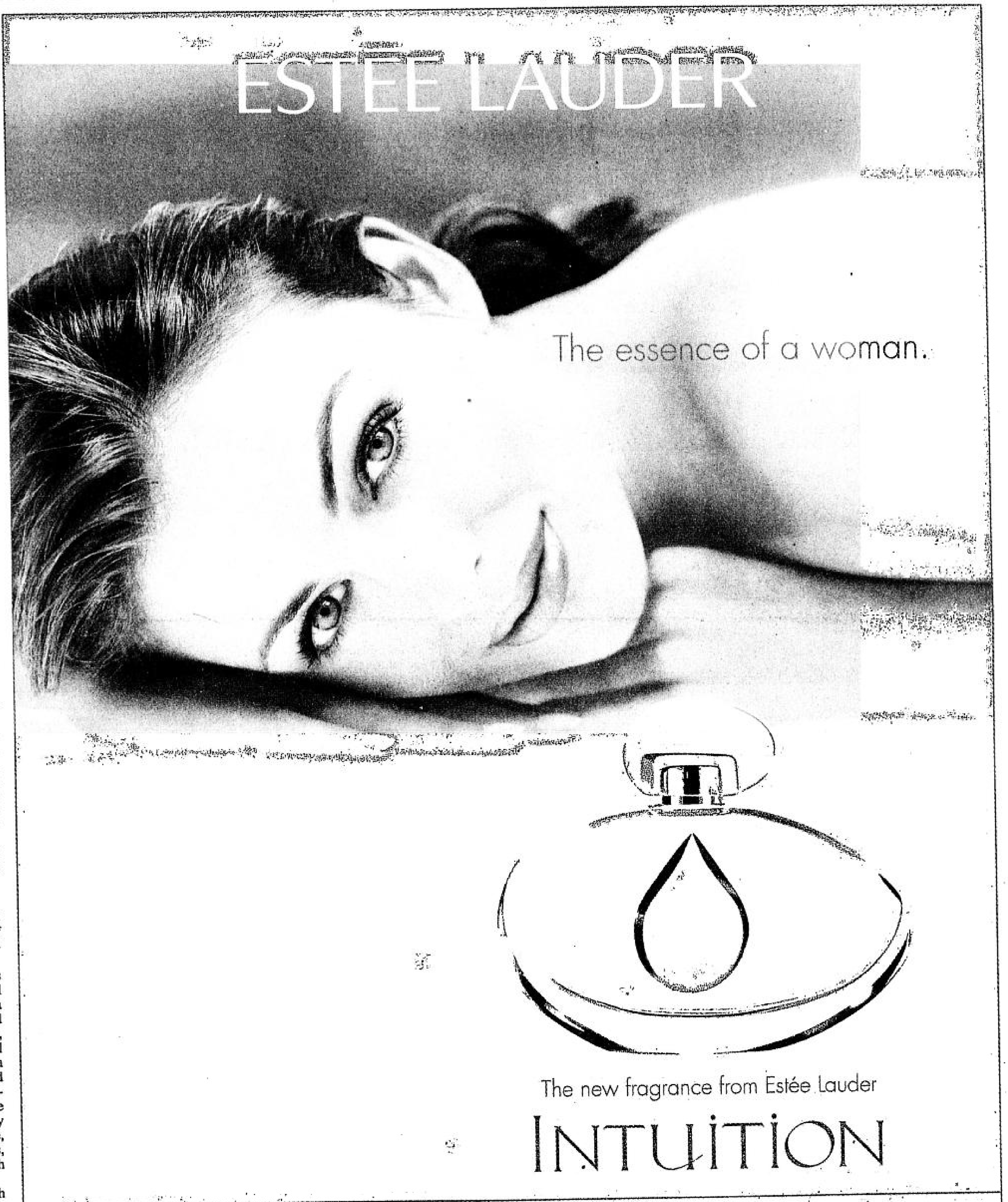

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0078, Series of 2000.

MARTIN Rodriguez, director for operations

KITCHEN scene at Sbarro, SM Megamall

Fast pizza, New York style

By Belle V. Bondoc

ITALIAN restos, from the casual to the fine dining, are sprouting all over the country. What's ambrosial about these Italian restaurants is their drawing power: they attract the young—students, yuppies, texters, ravers, mall devotees, and all others who grew up on spaghetti and still think no birthday party is complete without this noodle dish.

With the young clientele as well as families with young children, value for money is prime consideration. So is time. The young, as you know, are mostly restless.

Luckily, there is one Italian eatery that serves pasta and huge pizzas the fast-food way and it goes by the name Sbarro.

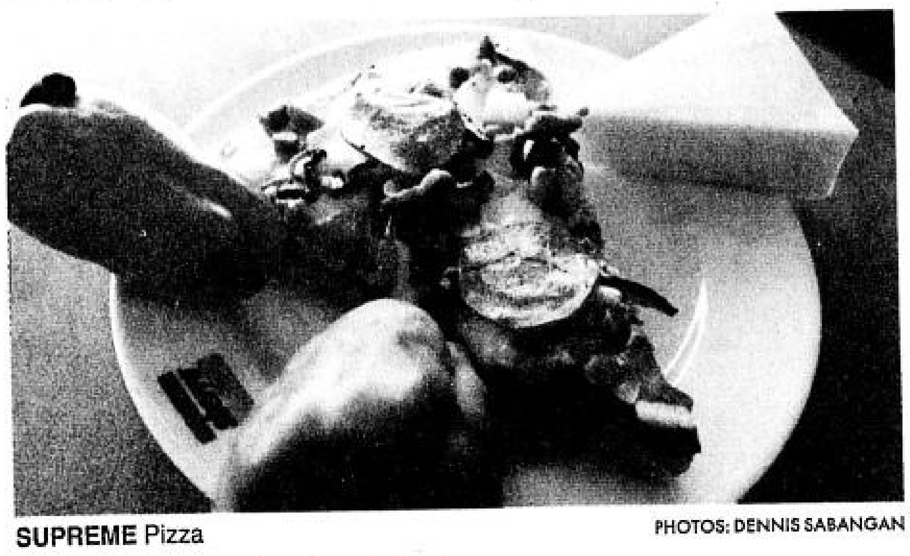
"Sbarro is the family name of an enterprising Italian family who migrated to the United States. Initially, the Sbarro family ventured in a deli shop, where they sold foodstuffs and cooking ingredients imported from Italy. Eventually, they started serving food and shifted to a restaurant business," says Martin Rodriguez, Sbarro's director for operations.

The restaurant has experienced tremendous growth as proven by its 900 outlets all over the world.

The Philippines was among the first in Asia to have a Sbarro franchise. Sbarro opened its first branch at SM City in North Edsa in 1990, and now there are outlets at SM Megamall, Glorietta II in Ayala Center, Robinsons Place Manila and Festival Supermall in Alabang.

Big enough for everyone

Sbarro is the only place hereabouts that serves huge-size pizzas (as in 17-inch diameter). "People begin to eat with their eyes. Here, what you see is what you get. Every item on the list is freshly cooked from the Sbarro's kitchen, specially the pizzas," explains Martin. Families can enjoy the goodness of an oversized, rich-flavored pizza served right from the pan. "Freshness is one important factor that we observe at Sbarro. It's one way of assuring customers quality value for their money. It's the secret of maintaining a faithful clientele," he adds.



SUPREME Pizza

PHOTOS: DENNIS SABANGAN

BAKED Zitti, served with tomato sauce, alfredo sauce or meat sauce

Sbarro serves a mouth-watering line-up of New York-style pizzas: the Cheese Pizza; Sausage Pizza (with Italian sausages); Pepperoni Pizza; Supreme Pizza (a hearty combination of meat and vegetables), which is also the bestseller in the line of pizza; the Hawaiian Pizza (sprinkled with pineapples); and the White Pizza (garlic-flavored and smothered with ricotta cheese). It also serves stuffed pizzas: Pepperoni and Sausage Pizza and the Supreme Stuffed Pizza. Plus the gourmet pizzas, called Foccacia, with choices spinach and mushroom, and the Meat Delight. Another Sbarro's attraction is the Strombolli, a rolled-up pastry with parmesan, mozzarella and garlic, with sausage and ham stuffing.

"Every day of the week, Sbarro comes up with Pizza Specials, which are specially made and served only on a designated day. We have the Vegetarian Pizza for health-conscious individuals; Ham, Pineapple and Pepperoni Pizza; Chicken and Vegetable Pizza; and the Primavera Pizza for seafood lovers," says Martin.

For pasta lovers, there is a wide range of pasta dishes: spaghetti, lasagna, zitti, and twist pasta concoctions. The Spinach Lasagna is baked in ricotta and topped with mozzarella slices, and the Baked Zitti, which is the most popular among the pastas, is served with tomato sauce, alfredo sauce, or meat sauce.

Sbarro desserts are typical Italian sweets that are made to perfection, like tiramisu and cheesecakes with toppings.

The ingredients—the pastas, tomato sauces or pastes, olive oil, cheeses, spices and herbs—are all imported from Italy. So those of us who have not the means to fly all the way to the Big Apple can enjoy a hearty slice of New York pizza right here in Manila.

E-mail the author at rbapril_25@yahoo.com.

Recipes from Japanese, Spanish and English kitchens

ASK NORA

Nora V. Daza

MARK D. asked for a yakisoba recipe. I took a while to answer this one because I waited for a niece who is married to a Japanese. They were away for the holidays. I wanted to be sure of my answer.

Yaki is fried in Japanese and *soba* is the noodle. Direct translation means "fried noodles."

Veronica, my niece, is a very talented architect who used to be with the Lindy Locsin architectural office. Her Japanese husband, Yoci, is a terrific cook and a very caring husband. Veronica tells me Yoci carries workloads 100 times his weight. And Japanese women who marry Filipinos sometimes regret their choice.

I now meet with Veronica and her Japanese friends and see the quiet fun and camaraderie among them. They just love each other's company and they share recipes so openly.

I promise to include their tofu recipes in my next cookbook.

Here is Veronica Villanueva Kukuminato's yakisoba recipe.

Yakisoba

3 dried Chinese mushrooms or dried shiitake mushrooms
8 oz fresh ramen noodles
100 g fish cakes, cut into thin strips, or fish balls
1 medium-size onion, chopped
2 tsp ginger, chopped
2 c green cabbage leaves, chopped
1 tbsp *mirin*
2-3 tbsp soy sauce
¼ tsp freshly pounded whole black pepper
2 sprigs of green onion, minced
Salt to taste

Slice the Chinese or shiitake mushrooms that have been soaked in warm water and whose stems have been removed. Set aside.

Bring a pot of water to boil and drop in ramen (these are egg-wheat noodles but one can use Chinese wheat egg noodles or rehydrated dried noodles). Cook for only a minute or two, or until tender to bite—al dente, so to speak. Set aside.

Heat cooking oil over medium heat and add onions and ginger. Stir for 2 minutes. Add strips of cabbage and the mushrooms. Stir-fry for 3 minutes. Add the fish strips and sprinkle with *mirin*. Stir-fry for 1 minute more. Add ramen and toss till ramen is hot. Season with soy sauce, black pepper, spring onions and salt. Serve hot.

* * *

Noel and Lyn Balante asked me to help them find a *tokwa* that they could enjoy eating. They found the *tokwa* sold in wet markets not to their liking. Now that I am learning about Japanese cooking from my niece and her Japanese friends, I found out that they use only tofu sold in Japanese food stores. However, you can find them now in the chilled sections of supermarkets. They are in plastic rectangular packs and have blue or green markings on their labels. Choose the one that suits you. Some are firmer than others.

By the way, *tokwa* is a firmer type of soybean cake while tofu is softer. Learn to select the brand that suits you. These days, it pays to be an informed consumer for we have so very many kinds of food products to choose from.

* * *

Maricel Morella asked about *salpicao/salpicado*. So did Ana de Guzman.

Salpicao is slang for *salpicado, which* is Spanish. A friend told me that she almost flunked his Spanish courses for using words like *salpicao* instead of the more idiomatically correct *salpicado*. This is really tenderloin tips cooked in olive oil and garlic.

Salpicao/Salpicado

300 g tenderloin tips, cut into thin strips
1/3 c olive oil
3-4 cloves garlic, pounded and chopped
Salt and pepper

Heat olive oil just to the point that upon adding the garlic the oil will brown the garlic slowly. While all this is still hot, drop in the tenderloin strips. Cook only until the beef loses its red-pink color. Season with salt and pepper and serve at once.

* * *

Marie Concepcion Raquel asked about a thick mint jelly she received from a relative in the United States. I imagine that this is mint jelly, which is usually served with roast lamb or lamb chops. This is a very English custom and I remember clearly that the French used to scoff at this. The French never use this in their cooking. But I had some mint jelly for the Americans and the English who associated mint jelly with lamb.

If you have lamb chops, simply season the chops with salt and pepper. In medium hot cooking oil, pan-fry the lamb chops. Lamb is now cooked to the pink stage. I like my roast lamb in the undercooked stage. It is tastier and more tender.

When the lamb chops are cooked, mop out the excess fat with a paper towel and serve with the mint jelly on the side. I hope you enjoy the combination. It is a tradition.

E-mail the author at ngdev@ info.com.ph or write her at PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo, Makati City

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Blessed by nature

(From page D1)

and pizzas.

And starting this month, it offers daily specials for lunch and kiddie meals and features fortune-tellers on Tuesday and Friday nights, jazz performances on Friday and Saturday evenings, feng shui experts and Chinese cuisine for the Chinese New Year celebration in the last week of January. Next month, it will hold Valentine concerts.

Through its creatively designed open kitchen, diners can see "how Lush Life's staff works and prepare food in a clean environment," says Romasanta, who has also started to grow mint, tarragon, basil and oregano around the restaurant. "If they'll flourish, we'll use them in our recipes," which only utilize fresh ingredients, and canola and olive oil.

Destiny

Romasanta should know how to run a restaurant as she has done it for almost two decades. It seems her destiny to run Lush Life and Café Rialto, which is located on the third floor of Ali Mall in Cubao, QC and at 64 Esteban Abada St., Sunrise Hill Condominium, Loyola Heights, QC. But prior to this, she worked for five years at Gourmet's Café, handling the restaurant division and marketing of products.

Before graduating from high school, Romasanta's guidance counselor advised her to take an engineering course since she was good in Math and Science. She later shifted to hotel and restaurant administration "because my dad thought it was an easy course but it wasn't." But she does not have any regrets "for it has opened so many things for me."

To update herself on food trends, Romasanta often goes on international trips, especially to New York, and religiously attends food fairs. "I also bring my staff around so they'd know too what's going on."

Set on becoming a hot spot in the heart of Manila, Lush Life provides visitors a unique experience in both ambience and design.

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E-mail the author at rburgos@ inquirer.com.ph

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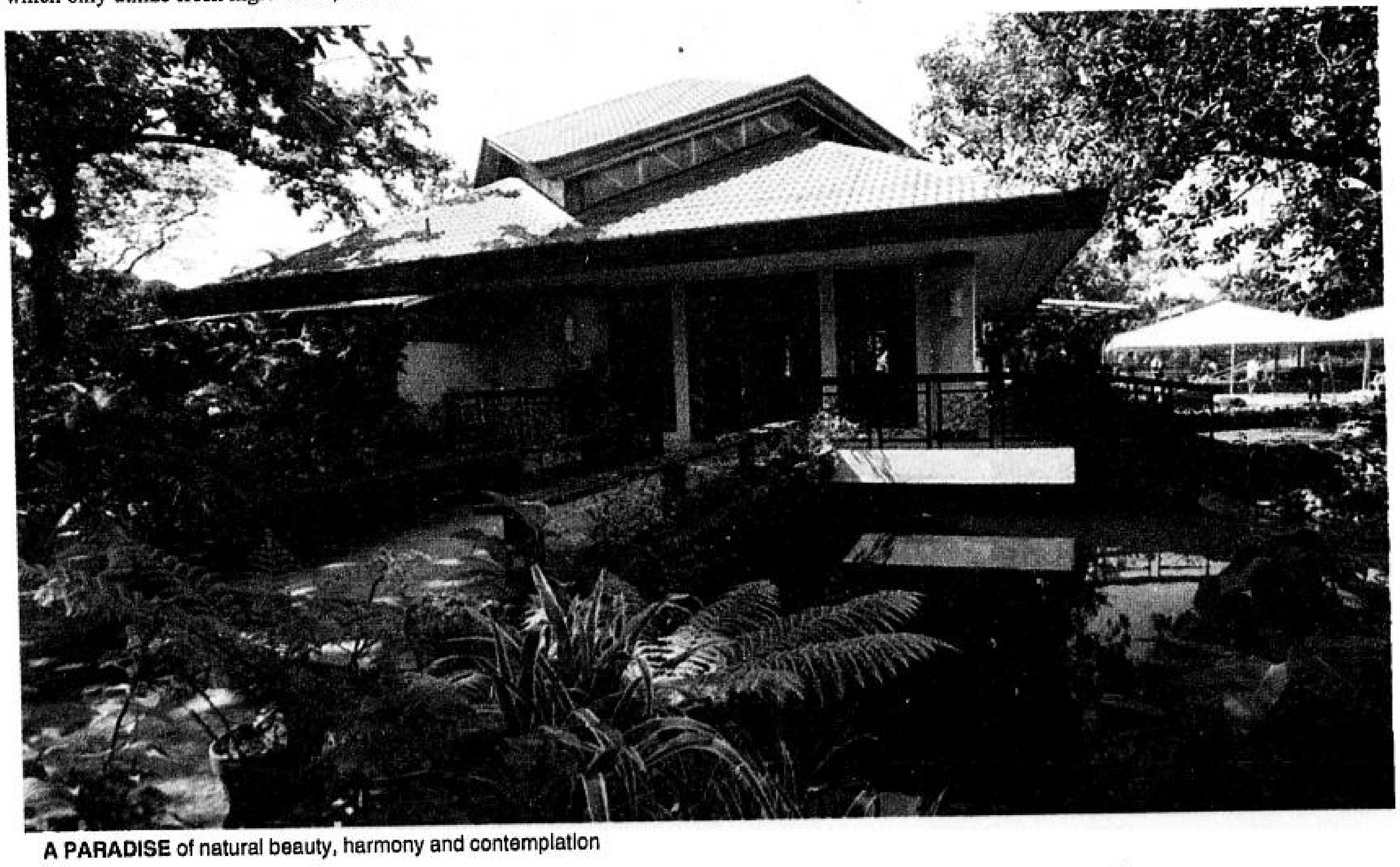
ART gallery at the mezzanine



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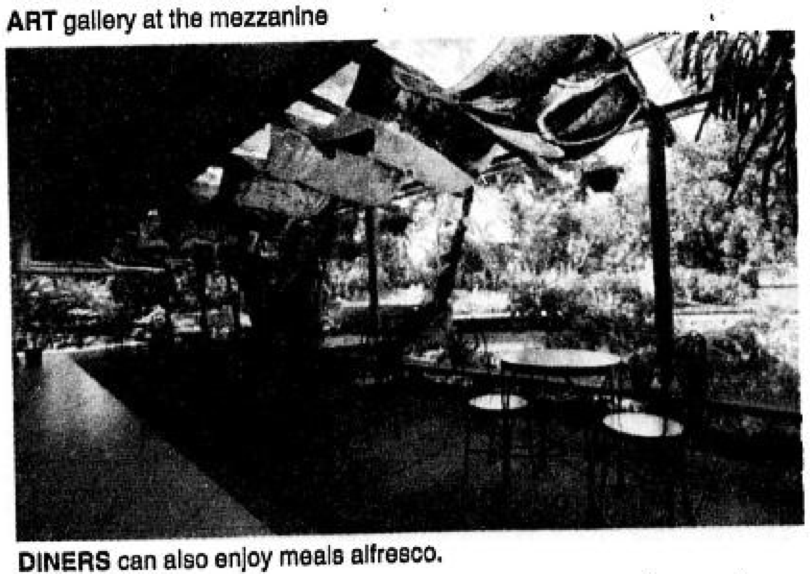


DINERS can also enjoy meals alfresco.

CABALEN manager Rio Ana, Councilor Alejandro Roces, Lorraine Feliciano, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Cabalen branch supervisor Marlon Bulanadi, Councilor Ricardo Isip and Councilor Kim Atienza

MARITEL O. Nievera (second from right) with (from left) Lorraine and Danny Feliciano and Freddie Tanchanco

CABALEN president Maritel O. Nievera with son Ian Tiongson (second and third from left) and Lorraine Feliciano (second from right) with guests of honor (from left) Danny Dolor, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and actress Susan Roces

Feast on nostalgia and Capampangan specialties

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Susan Roces and Danny Dolor led the trip down memory lane during the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of the newest Cabalen Restaurant at SM City Manila hosted by Cabalen president Maritel Nievera and Cabalen franchisee Jocyline Palanca. The blessing was officiated by Fr. Luis Candelaria, S.J. of Ateneo University.

Located at the 2/L SM City Manila fronting Manila City Hall, the new Cabalen was envisioned by Nievera and architect Joji Salonga as a relaxing place where you can load up on memories while feasting on Capampangan specialties from Cabalen's P220 eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want buffet. Choices include *kalderatang baka*, *kare-kare*, *rellenong bangus*, *bulalo*, *bopis*, *sisig*, *bistek bangus* belly, *inihaw na hito*, *sinigang na ulo ng maya-maya sa miso*, *pesang dalag* with *tahuri*, *gatang langka* with *alimasag*, *inihaw na panga ng* tuna, *lechon de leche*, *pakbet* Capampangan, *sinigang na hipon*, *gatang kuhol*, *laing*, *tinolang manok*, *lumpiang hubad*, *inihaw na pusit*, *tokwa't baboy*.

The art nouveau-inspired décor provides a nostalgic ambience to star-studded walls featuring great Filipino movie stars of the '60s and '70s, such as Susan Roces, Rogelio de la Rosa, Amalia Fuentes, Pancho Magalona, Tita Duran, Leopoldo Salcedo, Carmen Rosales, Tessie Quintana, Gloria Romero, Oscar Moreno, Rosa Rosal, Anita Linda, Mona Lisa, Norma Valles, Celia Flor, Letty Alonzo, Delia Razon, Fred Montilla, Alicia Vergel and Charito Solis.

The vintage photos came from the collection of art patron Danny Dolor.

At the same time, the color orange dominates the new Cabalen where three young artists from UP College of Fine Arts—Robby Mananquil, Kim Landicho and Erin Asuncion—complete the fiesta setting with murals depicting Mt. Arayat, Pampanga's famous landmark, in its morning, afternoon and evening splendor.

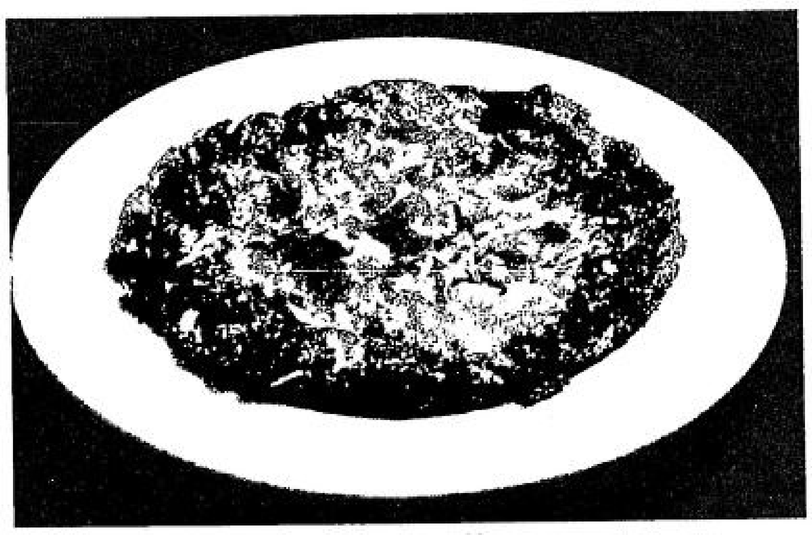
VINTAGE photos from the collection of art patron-banker Danny Dolor, shown here with actress Susan Roces and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

A new year with Oriental fare

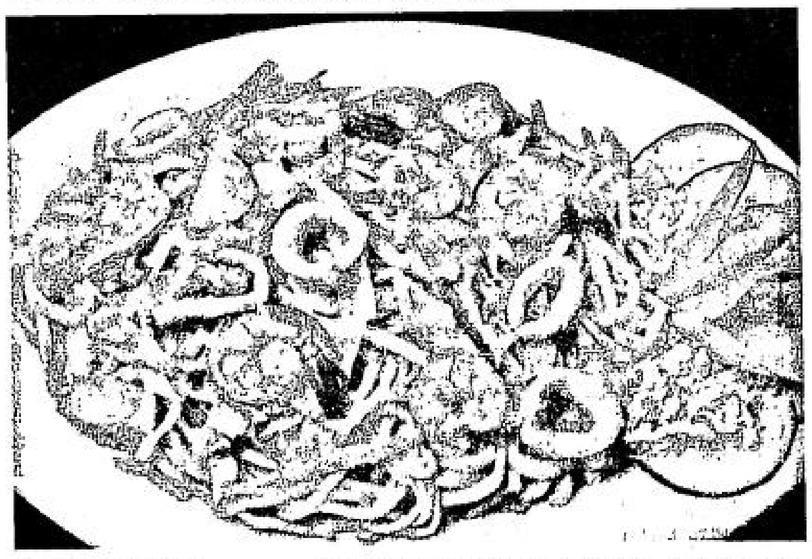
WITH THE YEAR of the Snake here, it's time to gather family and friends together to celebrate this lunar festival. And there's no better way than with delicious and sumptuous Oriental cuisine at regional restaurants at SM City Manila. Mann Hann, Mey Lin's Pot & Noodle House, Pho Hoa Vietnamese Noodle House and Mini Shabu-shabu are some of the must-try restaurants at the mall.

Mann Hann, which the Chua family established in the early '90s, was initially known for its *maki*, fresh *lumpia* with *ati* (a kind of seaweed) and *bijon* (glass noodles) with peanut sauce. Today, it serves quality Chinese specialties that capture, the flavors from the different regions—Fujian, which is characteristically bland; Cantonese, known to be tastefully sauteed; and Szechuan, traditionally strong and spicy. Some of the specialties which attract customers at their SM Megamall and SM City Manila outlets are the oyster cake, savory yet spicy spare ribs, beef *bofan*, brocolli with beef, as well as dimsum and noodle specialties.

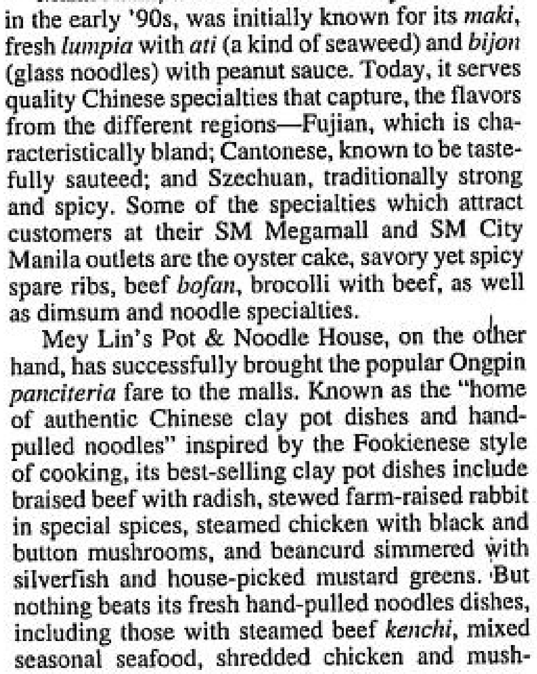
Mey Lin's Pot & Noodle House, on the other hand, has successfully brought the popular Ongpin *panciteria* fare to the malls. Known as the "home of authentic Chinese clay pot dishes and hand-pulled noodles" inspired by the Fookienese style of cooking, its best-selling clay pot dishes include braised beef with radish, stewed farm-raised rabbit in special spices, steamed chicken with black and button mushrooms, and beancurd simmered with silverfish and house-picked mustard greens. But nothing beats its fresh hand-pulled noodles dishes, including those with steamed beef *kenchi*, mixed seasonal seafood, shredded chicken and mushrooms, *kinchay*, shrimps and *wonton*.



THE POPULAR Oyster Cake from Mann Hann



FRESHLY made noodles and generous garnishings make Mey Lin's *chami* a top favorite.



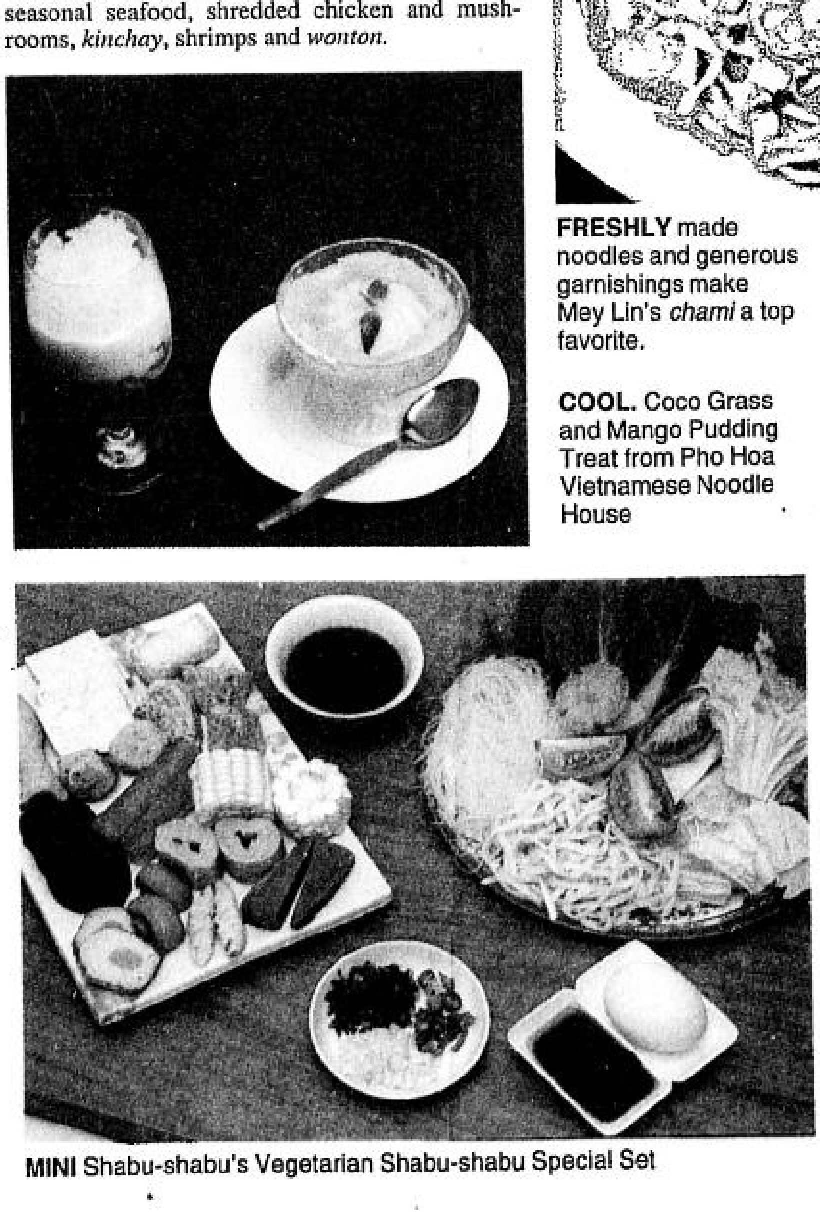
COOL. Coco Grass and Mango Pudding Treat from Pho Hoa Vietnamese Noodle House

Pho Hoa Vietnamese Noodle House has its roots in San Jose, California, where Binh Nguyen established it in 1984. It serves filling bowls of *pho*, the Vietnamese national breakfast, which consists of pale white rice noodles immersed in rich beef broth.

Described by Washington Post food critic Judith Olney as a "solitary dish that is compete within itself, comforting in its exclusivity," it comes in well-done beef brisket (*pho chin nac*), meat balls (*pho ho vien*), steak (*pho tat*), flank (*pho nam*) and seafood (*pho bo ko*) varieties. Other Pho Hoa favorites include *goi ga*, chicken vegetable salad; *goi cuon*, fresh spring rolls; and *chay dau hu*, grilled fish steak, tofu and assorted mushrooms with rice. Its desserts like coconut custard, mange crepe, green pearl and coca grass are delightfully flavored, as are the Vietnamese coffee varieties.

Mini Shabu-shabu, which means "soup," has its beginning in Japan. Shabu-shabu has also become synonymous with the hot pot style of cooking ingredients cooked and immersed in hot boiling chicken broth. Shabu-shabu meals, wherein one can actually chose the ingredients, are great for warm family gatherings. A platter of vegetables which includes tare, sweet corn, fresh golden mushrooms, may be annexed with choice meat cuts (beef, pork loin and Australian lamb) or seafood (squid, lobster, shrimps). Completing the *shabu* meal are noodles, rice or egg), bead curd and *quekiam*.

Mann Hann, Mey Lin's Pot & Noodle House, Pho Hoa Vietnamese Noodle House and Mini Shabu-shabu restaurants are located at SM City Manila, Arroceros corner Concepcion and San Marcelino Streets.



MINI Shabu-shabu's Vegetarian Shabu-shabu Special Set

Cooking lessons: From Korean specials to Twisted Paellas

CHEF Gene Gonzalez will hold his workshop on Korean Specials at The Center for Asian Culinary Studies on Jan. 26, 1-4 p.m. Learn how to prepare flavorful Korean dishes Beancurd Banchan, Potato Banchan, Seaweed Soup, Stir-fried Mung Sprouts with Garlic, Tenderloin with Bulgogi Dipping Sauce and Dried Anchovy Banchan. All Korean recipes are prepared using locally available ingredients.

Chef Gene holds his All About Sate class on Jan. 29, 1-4 p.m. The chef will unveil the secret spicy pastes used in Indonesian dishes like Nasi Lemak and Nasi Goreng.

A special class on Low Sugar Desserts is scheduled on Jan. 30, 1-4 p.m. Learn simple but authentic methods of preparing exotic cuisine from Bangkok's sidewalks. Recipes for this class include Kai Look (Kei Deep-fried hard-boiled egg with tamarind sauce), Ped Tun (Clean Duck Stew Soup), Khao Man Gai (Chicken with Rice-Cooked in Chicken Broth and Black Bean sauce), Tua-Pub (Thai rice cake), Pad Krapow Talay (Mixed Seafood with Basil leaves) and Pomelo Salad.

Call 725-5089, 726-9326, 722-0349.

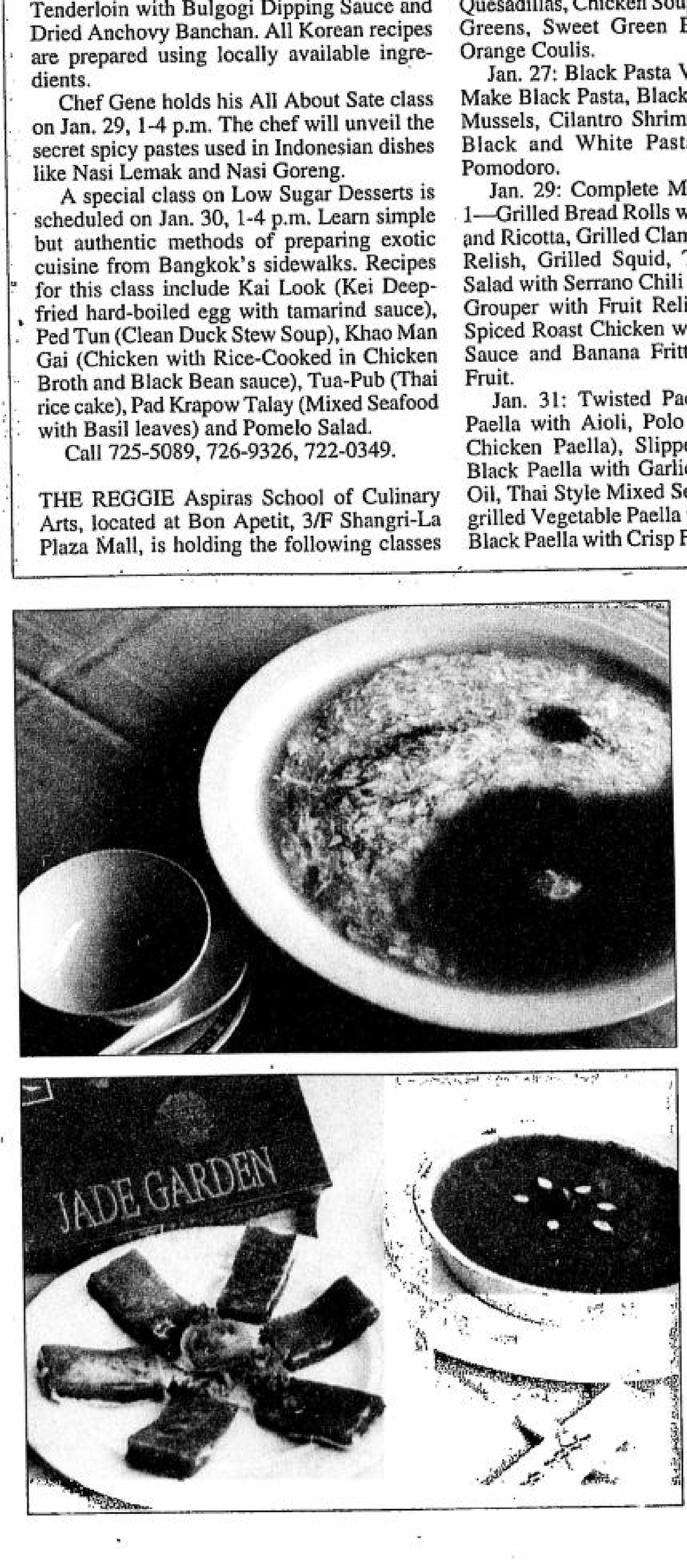
THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts, located at Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, is holding the following classes for January.

Jan. 26: Soup Combos—Roasted Garlic Soup with Tuscan Beans and Asian Shrimp Salad, Carpaccio with Spiced Noodle Soup, Crisp Crab Cakes with Citrus Pumpkin Soup, Grilled Corn Soup with Spanish Style Quesadillas, Chicken Soup with Mixed Asian Greens, Sweet Green Banana Soup with Orange Coulis.

Jan. 27: Black Pasta Variations—How to Make Black Pasta, Black Pasta with Chilled Mussels, Cilantro Shrimps on Black Pasta, Black and White Pasta with Squid Ink Pomodoro.

Jan. 29: Complete Meals from the Grill 1—Grilled Bread Rolls with Fresh Tomatoes and Ricotta, Grilled Clams with Chorizo and Relish, Grilled Squid, Tomato and Onion Salad with Serrano Chili Vinaigrette, Grilled Grouper with Fruit Relish and Bean Rice, Spiced Roast Chicken with Mango Caramel Sauce and Banana Fritters, Mixed Grilled Fruit.

Jan. 31: Twisted Paellas—Orzo (Pasta) Paella with Aioli, Polo Borocha (Drunken Chicken Paella), Slipper Tail arid Prawn Black Paella with Garlic and Spring Onion Oil, Thai Style Mixed Seafood Paella, Chargrilled Vegetable Paella with Tomato Relish, Black Paella with Crisp Fish in Pepper Sauce.



LUCKY SET
Delicious Shark's Fin Soup with Chicken and Crabmeat as prepared by Hong Kong chefs highlights the 10-course special Chinese New Year lucky menu at Jade Garden. For every set menu, two boxes of special *tikoy* (sweetened rice cake) are given for free. Or, buy 10 boxes of *tikoy* and get one free. Available for lunch and dinner, this offer is good until Jan. 31. Jade Garden is at the Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 892-2319 or 812-4548.

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First General Membership Meeting and Induction of its year 2001 Officers and Directors
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Guest of Honor: Acting Department of Trade & Industry Secretary **Thomas G. Aquino**
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PROGRAMME

PART I
6:30-7:30 P. M. - Registration and Fellowship

PART II
7:30 P. M. - Dinner

PART III - Program Proper

❖ Call to Order	Atty. Rodolfo A. Salalima, *President, PETEF*
❖ Invocation	Mr. Albert L. Tuason, *Director & VP, GIRC*
❖ National Anthem	Mr. Roland Marcos S. Padilla *Director & VP, Communication*
❖ Introduction of Dignitaries & Guests	Mr. Francisco Jesus A. Naranjilla *Director & Chair, Sports*
❖ Welcome Remarks	Ms. Maureen V. Santiago, *Director & VP, Events*
❖ Message of the President	Atty. Rodolfo A. Salalima, *President*
❖ Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker	Mr. Romeo T. Recto *Director & VP, Admin./Finance & Treasurer*
❖ Address of Guest Speaker	Hon. Thomas G. Aquino, *Acting Secretary* *Department of Trade & Industry*
❖ Induction of 2001 Officers and Directors and its Member Associations · PETEF Board · PETEF Foundation · ETSIP · ITESAP · Induction of New Members	
❖ Closing Remarks	Ms. Cynthia R. Mamon *Director & Vice Chair, Ways & Means*
❖ Adjournment	Atty. Rodolfo A. Salalima

Ms. Maureen V. Santiago · Mr. Albert S. Velasco
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2. ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES ASSN. OF THE PHILS., INC. (EIAPI)
3. ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS INSTITUTE OF THE PHILS. (ETSIP)
4. EDI ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (On Leave)
5. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILS. (ITAP)
6. INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERS OF THE PHILS. (IECEP)
7. INTEGRATED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPPLIERS ASSN. OF THE PHILS. (ITESAP)
8. KAPISANAN NG MGA BRODKASTERS SA PILIPINAS (KBP)
9. PAGING ENTITIES ASSOCIATION (PAGE), INC.
10. PETEF FOUNDATION, INC. (PFI)
11. PHILIPPINE ASSN. OF DATA ENTRY CORP. (PADEC)
12. PHILIPPINE CABLE TV ASSOCIATION (PCTA)
13. PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMUNICATIONS (PCC)
14. PHILIPPINE ELECTRIC WIRES MANUFACTURERS ASSN. (PEWMA)
15. PHILIPPINE INTERNET SERVICE ORGANIZATION, INC. (PISO)
16. TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS OF THE PHILIPPINES (TOP)
17. TRUNKED RADIO OPERATORS OF THE PHILS. (TROPA)

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1. ALCYON HOLDING CORPORATION
2. ALCATEL PHILIPPINES, INC
3. ASIAN HIGH TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
4. ATRONICS INTEGRATED MARKETING CORPORATION (AIMCOR)
5. AT&T PHILIPPINES, INC.
6. BAYANTEL
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8. BI GROUP
9. BRAND-REX, PTX.LTD.
10. CAPITOL WIRELESS, INC. (CAPWIRE)
11. CENTER FOR INFORMATION TECH. EXPONENT, INC. (CITE)
12. COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS, INC.
13. CONSULTRONIX SYSTEMS CORP. (CYSCOR)
14. CONTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC
15. DOMESTIC SATELLITE PHILS., INC. (DOMSAT)
16. DEMPA ASIA PHILIPPINES, INC
17. DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PHILS., INC. (DIGITEL)
18. DIVERSIFIED TECH. SYSTEMS, INC. (DTSI)
19. EASTERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. (ETPI)
20. EASYCALL COMMUNICATIONS PHILS., INC
21. ECI TELECOM (PHILIPPINES), INC
22. ENHANCED ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
23. ERICSSON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC
24. EXPRESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO., INC. (EXTELCOM)
25. FILIPINAS ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. (FETELCOR)
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27. FURUKAWA ELECTRONICS PHILS., INC
28. GENTEC TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
29. GLENAYRE ELECTRONICS PHILS., INC
30. GLOBALTEK PHILS., INC
31. GLOBE TELECOM, INC
32. HANDYWARE PHILIPPINES, INC
33. HEWLETT PACKARD PHILS. CORP
34. INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PHILIPPINES (IIR)
35. IBM PHILIPPINES
36. I-GATE SOLUTIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES CORP
37. INDUSTRIAL ELECTRO COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
38. INFOCOM COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC. (NEXTEL)
39. INPHASE CONSTRUCTION CO., INC
40. INTEX TELECOM SYSTEMS
41. ISLA COMMUNICATIONS CO., INC.
42. ITALTEL SOCIETA ITALIANA TELECOMMUNICAZIONNE, S.P.A.
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44. LEVERAGE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. (LST)
45. LOCATOR INTERNATIONAL TELECOM & TRADERS CORPORATION (LOCATOR)
46. LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
47. LYNCOLE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
48. 3M PHILIPPINES
49. MACRO COMMUNICATIONS (MACROCOM)
50. MARUBENI CORPORATION
51. MASCHINEN & TECHNIK, INC. (MATEC)
52. MAYON TELEPHONE CO. (MATELCO) (On Leave)
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54. METCHEM INDUSTRIAL, INC.
55. MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS PHILS. INC.
56. MULTI-MEDIA TELEPHONY, INC.
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58. NESIC PHILIPPINES, INC.
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63. OCEANIC WIRELESS NETWORK, INC. (OWNI)
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65. OPCOM PHILIPPINES
66. OPTEL LIMITED
67. PACIFIC MICROWAVE CORP.
68. PHIL. AGILA SATELLITE, INC. (PASI) (On Leave)
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72. PHILCOM CORPORATION
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74. PHILIPS ELECTRICAL LAMPS, INC.
75. PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CO.
76. PHILIPPINE WIRELESS, INC. (POCKETBELL)
77. PHILFLEX (PHILIPS WIRE & CABLE CO.)
78. ROCIS, INC.
79. SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILS. CORPORATION
80. SIEMENS, INC.
81. SKY CABLE
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89. TELTRONICS CORPORATION
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92. TUV PRODUCT SERVICE ASIA PACIFIC LTE. LTD.
93. UNIVERSAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, INC. (UTS)
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30. NESTOR A. VIRATA
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Secretary General

Romulo R. Agatep
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Vice President - Education

Leadership Matters

As the country's key players in information and communications technology gather to induct the officers and board members of the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation (PETEF) for 2001, momentous changes are taking place within the environment where its members operate.

Chief among these changes are the nation's transit into the 21st century and the onset of both the so-called "borderless society" as well as the high technologies members of PETEF use, market and promote. Indeed, PETEF members are significant contributors in spurring the Philippines' entry into the Information Age.

Through its officers and board members led by its president Atty. Rodolfo Salalima of Globe Telecom, PETEF shall accept the challenge of helping ensure that the crafting of the knowledge-based society in the Philippines will benefit the common good.

As leaders, the PETEF 2001 officers and board members shall work with other sectors of society in charting directions for the Philippines' full participation in the borderless world of the global village.

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PHILIPPINE ELECTRONICS
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FEDERATION (PETEF)

Of immediate concerns are:

- the country's capacity to provide basic telephony and Internet services to the rural sector
- the convergence of electronics, telecoms, cable, broadcasting, Internet and informationl technology, and
- the laying down of the foundations for the construction of the Philippine Information Infrastructure (PII) which shall provide the means to most Filipinos to have access to the Internet and basic telephony services.

In working for the realization of these goals, leadership matters. PETEF can help the government craft the policies needed to seamlessly bring about convergence of technologies. Consensus shall be reached with regard to these proposed policies in order that PETEF shall speak as one voice.

Salalima

Our commitment at PETEF to provide a voice for the country's telecommunications, information technology, electronics and broadcast industries goes hand in hand with our desire to help in the advancement of the nation. Thus, our platform for this year – "PETEF: Beyond Borders" – gains significance in our aim to go the limit in helping ensure good, harmonious and productive relationships between the technology-oriented industries and individuals, and contribute to national and global development.

I would like to thank all the PETEF members for their dedication and help in making last year a successful year for PETEF. At the same time, I call on them once again to be ready to take up the new challenges of 2001.

Atty. Rodolfo A. Salalima
Director & President, PETEF

INPHASE CONST. COMPANY, INC.

Catherine cor. Helena Sts., Sta Teresita Village, Marikina City
Tel Nos: 9413290 • 9416974 • 9480097 Telefax: 9415818
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ATTUNED TO YOUR NEEDS

PHILIPPINE ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FEDERATION

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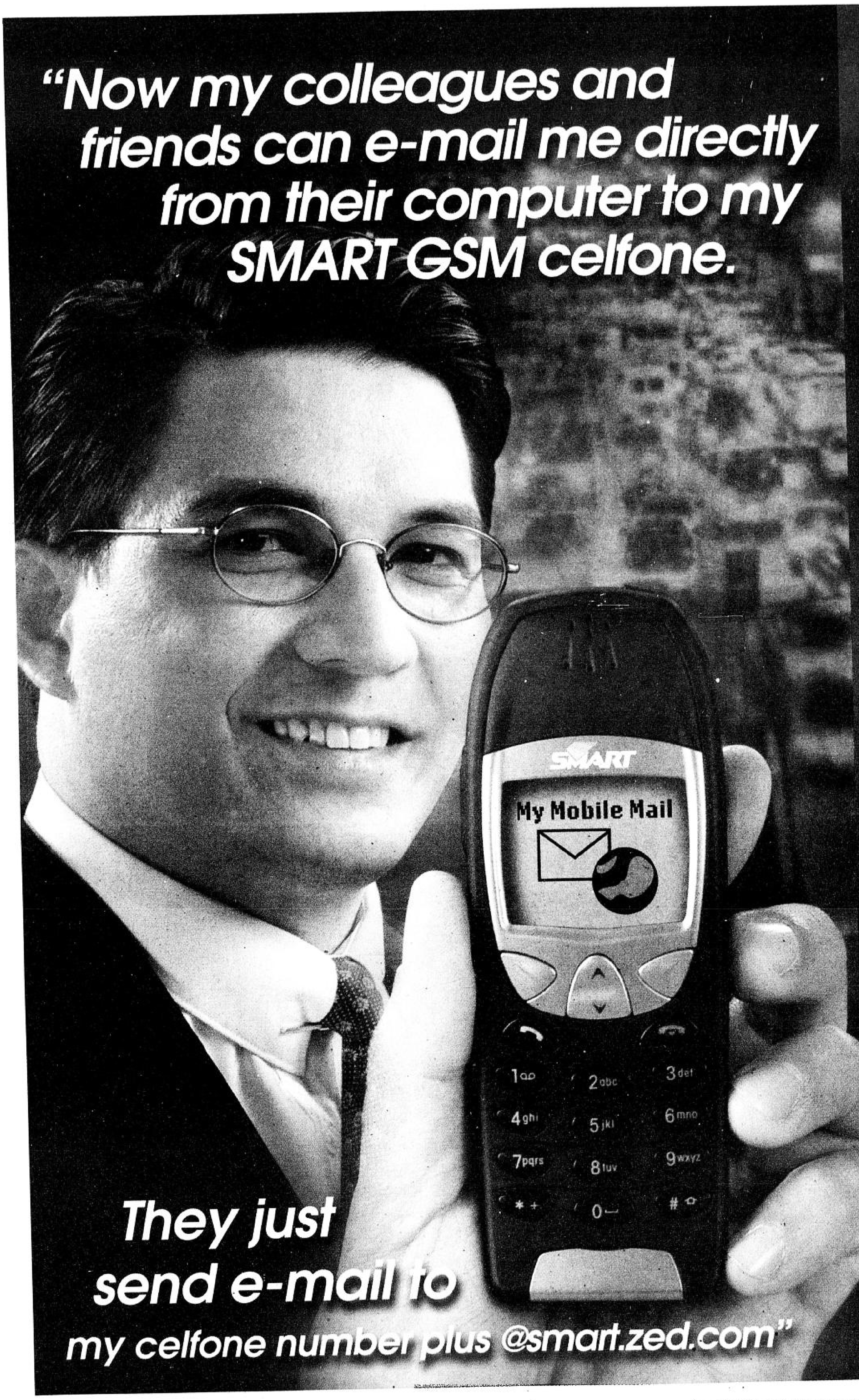

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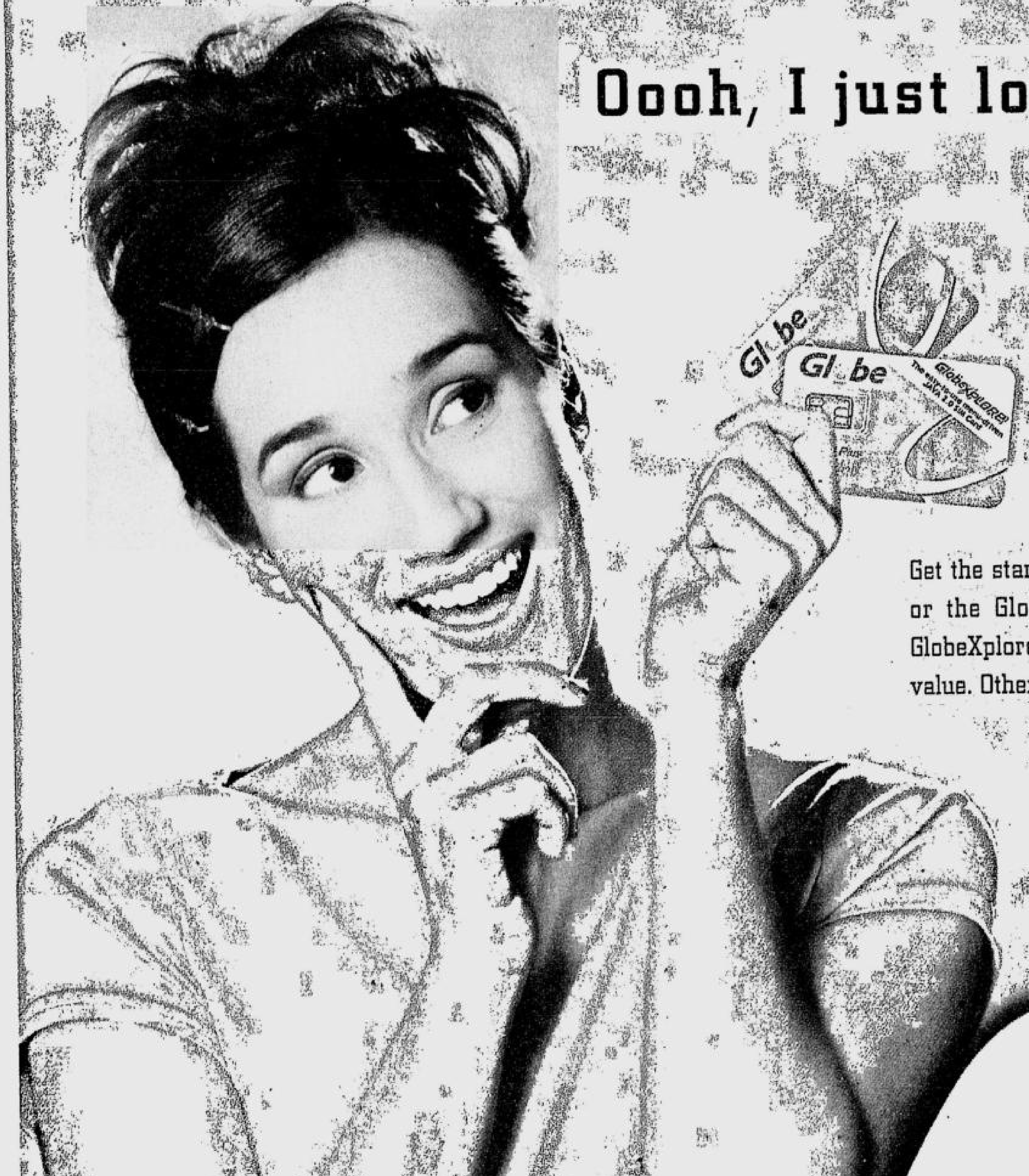

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